



Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: June 9th, 2025
Correspondence Package No. I-25-JUN-11

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-25-JUN-11 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

1. Correspondence from the Government of Ontario

- a) Ontario Supporting New Emergency Communications System to Protect People, Families and Communities
- b) Ontario Launches Award to Honour Exceptional Veterans
- c) Ontario Protecting Workers on Construction Sites
- d) Ontario Investing in Modern New Policing Facilities to Protect Communities
- e) Ontario Providing Record Education Funding while Ensuring School Board Accountability
- f) Plan Your Destination Ontario Getaway this Summer
- g) Ontario Helping Workers Access Skills Training Faster
- h) Ontario Strengthening Emergency Preparedness
- i) Ontario Supporting Recipients of Disability Benefits
- j) Ontario Protecting Communities from Wildland Fires and Hazardous Gas Wells
- k) Ontario Introduces Seventh Working for Workers Act
- l) Ontario to Introduce Legislation to Strengthen School Board Oversight
- m) Ontario Signs Agreement to Unlock Free Trade with Saskatchewan
- n) Ontario Signs Agreement to Unlock Free Trade with Alberta and Prince Edward Island

- o) Protecting the Good Things that Grow in Ontario
- p) Ontario Securing Affordable Energy for Future Generations

2. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew

- a) County Council Summary May 2025
- b) 2025 Silver Chain Challenge launching in Renfrew and Lanark Counties
- c) Staff hired to lead Renfrew County Mesa HART Hub

3. Correspondence from Renfrew County and District Health Unit

- a) Medical Officer of Health Report to the Board

4. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

- a) Watch File – May 22nd, 2025
- b) Watch File – May 29th, 2025
- c) Policy Update – Submissions on Bills 5 and 2
- d) Policy Update – OPP Billing Review, Strong Mayor Powers Training, Bill 6 Advocacy, New Federal Minister of Housing & Infrastructure, New Ontario TCIP Program
- e) Policy Update – Province Introduces Bill 30

5. Correspondence from the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

- a) EOWC Advocacy Update – June 2025

6. Correspondence from Other Municipalities

- a) Town of Plympton-Wyoming: Motion to Pause Bill 5 Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act 2025
- b) Municipality of Kincardine: Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act
- c) County of Prince Edward: Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act
- d) Township of Assinack: Ontario Works Rates

7. Correspondence from Algonquin College

- a) Algonquin College names Angela Rintoul as Pembroke Campus dean

8. Correspondence from Arnprior-Braeside-McNab Seniors At Home Program

a) [Spring 2025 Update](#)

9. Correspondence from Arnprior Physician Recruitment Committee

a) [Certificate of Appreciation – Doctors Dining Duel](#)

Ontario Supporting New Emergency Communications System to Protect People, Families and Communities

Province extending Next Generation 9-1-1 funding for another year

May 22, 2025

[Solicitor General](#)

TORONTO — As part of its plan to protect Ontario, the government is investing almost \$22 million to help municipalities and emergency response centres support the transition to a new 9-1-1 communications system known as Next Generation 9-1-1.

“Every second counts when calling 9-1-1, and that’s why we are taking action to ensure Ontario’s emergency operators and dispatchers have access to state-of-the-art technology so that they can get help to where it’s needed most,” said Solicitor General Michael Kerzner. “Extending Next Generation 9-1-1 funding for an additional year will support the continued adoption of this life-saving system, resulting in safer communities and a better-protected Ontario.”

Public safety answering points (PSAPs) that handle emergency calls, and have not yet transitioned to Next Generation 9-1-1, will have the opportunity to apply for the funding this summer. The funding is part of the government’s [\\$208 million investment](#) to help municipalities and emergency response centres upgrade infrastructure and technology to support the transition to Next Generation 9-1-1. These upgrades include new telephone systems, call handling systems and internal network and cyber security infrastructure.

Once fully implemented, Next Generation 9-1-1 will make it easier to provide additional details about emergency situations such as video from the scene of an accident and to text 9-1-1 when requesting immediate help from police, fire or ambulance services. It will also give emergency operators and dispatchers the ability to identify the location of a call using GPS coordinates, resulting in a safer, faster and more informed emergency response.

Quick Facts

- There are 108 PSAPs across the province of Ontario that receive and process emergency calls.
- The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission has extended the deadline for all phone and cell service companies to update their networks from analog to digital to March 31, 2027, so they are ready to provide Next Generation 9-1-1 services.
- The public will still be able to access 9-1-1 and other emergency communications throughout the transition to Next Generation 9-1-1.

Additional Resources

[Ontario Modernizing its Emergency Response System](#)

Related Topics

Law and Safety

Ontario's laws and related information about our legal system, emergency services, the Ontario Provincial Police and victim services. [Learn more](#)

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Ontario Launches Award to Honour Exceptional Veterans

First-of-its-kind award recognizes veterans for outstanding community service

May 22, 2025

[Citizenship and Multiculturalism](#)

BRAMPTON – Today, the Ontario government launched the new Ontario Veterans Award for Community Service Excellence (OVACSE). The award honours individuals for exceptional and ongoing service to their communities, such as work to help veterans re-integrate into civilian life, supporting those dealing with ongoing mental or physical injuries, or other broader community-building initiatives.

"Premier Ford and our government are proud to launch the Ontario Veterans Award for Community Service Excellence, a historic program to honour the invaluable volunteer efforts of our veterans," said Graham McGregor, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism. "We can never fully repay those who have served our country, but this award will help strengthen our province by recognizing the legacy of our veterans and their contributions to building a stronger Ontario."

The new initiative makes Ontario the first province in Canada to establish an award specifically dedicated to honouring veterans' excellence in community service. Each year, Ontario branches of The Royal Canadian Legion will each nominate one veteran who has demonstrated significant and sustained contributions to their community through exceptional work. The nominating Legion branches will present certificates and lapel pins to award recipients during local ceremonies in each year.

Ontario is home to approximately 149,000 veterans and each year, approximately 9,000 Canadian Armed Forces members are released from military service.

Quick Facts

- For more information on the nomination process and eligibility criteria, visit the Ontario Veterans Award for Community Service Excellence [webpage](#).
 - All nominations must be submitted by the annual deadline of August 31.
-

Quotes

"On behalf of True Patriot Love, I congratulate the Ontario government for the launch of this important initiative. We have seen the deep purpose that volunteerism gives veterans in their transition from military service, allowing them to continue to serve their country in meaningful ways. This award is a tremendous step forward in recognizing the value of that service."

- Nick Booth
CEO, True Patriot Love

"We applaud the Government of Ontario for launching an award that not only honours veterans but also the work they continue doing to serve their communities by volunteering. Veterans have served to protect all that we value in Ontario, and this is the least we can do to recognize their contributions when they return. The Royal Canadian Legion Branches of Ontario Provincial Command are excited to be working with the government to ensure we recognize and celebrate the contributions of veterans from all corners of the province from Ottawa to Windsor to Timmins and everything in between."

- Derek Moore
Provincial President, The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Provincial
Command

Additional Resources

- The province annually bestows thousands of honours and awards. Discover more about Ontario's [medal and recognition programs](#).
- Learn more about [volunteering in Ontario](#).

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Ontario Protecting Workers on Construction Sites

Province proposing changes that would improve access to defibrillators at construction sites

May 23, 2025

[Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development](#)

WHITBY — The Ontario government will soon introduce first-in-Canada changes that will, if passed, create safer workplaces for construction workers by requiring automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) at construction sites. This builds on the lifesaving changes introduced in 2022 that require [naloxone kits in at-risk workplaces](#).

“Our government is protecting Ontario workers that are building our province by requiring AEDs on construction sites,” said David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. “Our skilled workers are at the centre of our government's plan to build highways, energy and key infrastructure. Ensuring lifesaving equipment is where it’s needed to keep them safe is one more way we’re creating safer workplaces.”

Cardiac events, including sudden cardiac arrest, are a leading cause of workplace fatalities, with construction workers being at higher risk. AEDs are electronic devices used to restore normal rhythm to a person's heart if they are in cardiac arrest. When used together with CPR in the first few minutes after a cardiac arrest, AEDs can dramatically improve cardiac arrest survival rates by more than 50 per cent.

The proposed amendments would require AEDs on construction projects that are expected to last three months or longer with 20 or more workers. To support businesses with the costs, a proposed program through the [Workplace Safety and Insurance Board \(WSIB\)](#) would reimburse constructors for the purchase of an AED.

The proposal is part of a larger proposed package that will expand on the ground-breaking actions across six previous Working for Workers Acts since 2021, which will be unveiled in the coming days. This latest package will help protect Ontario workers and the economy for the long-term, create safer workplaces for a stronger

workforce and fight worker abuse by cracking down on bad actors. This is all part of our plan to protect Ontario and help make it the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

Quick Facts

- During consultations held as part of [Working for Workers Five](#), construction industry stakeholders recommended AEDs as essential devices to have on site and highlighted the need for financial support to help small businesses with the purchase of these devices.
 - In April 2025, the cost to purchase one AED is on average \$2,300.
 - This WSIB reimbursement program would be paid from the WSIB insurance fund.
 - Data from the Ministry shows that more than 15% of inspection reports associated with “cardiac” or “heart attack” were in the construction sector.
-

Quotes

"Our government continues to take decisive action to ensure the safety and well-being of Ontario's workers. By requiring AEDs on larger construction sites, we are making life-saving tools more accessible where they're needed most. This change reflects our commitment to creating safer workplaces and supporting our skilled trades here in Whitby and other parts of the Region of Durham, while building a stronger Ontario for everyone."

- Lorne Coe
MPP for Whitby

"Heart & Stroke welcomes the Government of Ontario's initiative to require AEDs at more construction sites across the province. Sixty thousand cardiac arrests occur outside of a hospital per year in Canada, and only one in ten survives. When used quickly, AEDs can double those chances of survival. This is an excellent step forward in making AEDs readily available and keeping our loved ones alive in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest."

- Lesley James
DrPH, Director of Health Policy & Systems, Heart & Stroke

"The safety of our members is, and always will be, our top priority. Lives can change in seconds on a construction site, and access to an AED can mean the difference between life and death. This proposed change is a critical step forward in protecting the hardworking men and women who build our province every day. We commend Minister Piccini for recognizing that worker safety must always come first."

**- Jack Oliveira, Business Manager
LiUNA Local 183**

"This legislation will save lives. By requiring AEDs on construction sites, Premier Ford and Minister Piccini are ensuring construction workers have access to life saving AEDs if a cardiac event occurs. Ontario will be the first jurisdiction in North America to introduce this legislation and RESCON fully supports and applauds the Minister's leadership and dedication to health and safety."

**- Andrew Pariser
Vice-President, RESCON**

"Survival rates decrease by about 10% for every minute without defibrillation. On construction sites where emergency services may take time to arrive, an on-site AED can be the difference between life and death. Adding a defibrillator to a construction site isn't just a lifesaving tool – it's a proactive investment in workplace safety. It sends a powerful message about prioritizing health and safety from the ground up."

**- Chuck Resnick
President, The Mikey Network**

"Across the ICI construction sector, our employers and contractors are committed to the health and safety of our valued trade union members. We want to thank the Ford government and Minister Piccini for their leadership and support, and congratulate them for implementing this important initiative that will inevitably make our construction sites safer and save lives. We look forward to working with the WSIB as our financial partner, as we share their commitment to helping provide this important tool to our membership."

- Wayne Peterson
Executive Director, Construction Employers Coordinating Council of Ontario

"EllisDon supports the newest version of the Working for Workers Bill, highlighting the mandate for AEDs on larger construction sites. Ensuring the health and safety of workers and the potential need for AEDs provides peace of mind for workers should there ever be a necessity to use one. This critical update is a testament to our ongoing commitment to enhancing the health, safety, and wellness of every individual on our worksites."

- Steve Chaplin
Senior Vice President, Health, Safety, and Environment, EllisDon Corporation

"The OSWCA applauds Premier Ford and Minister Piccini for their leadership in protecting the health and safety of our skilled workforce, and for ensuring that workers have immediate access to lifesaving devices in case of a medical emergency on construction sites."

- Patrick McManus
Executive Director, Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association (OSWCA)

"The Provincial Building Trades Council supports the requirement to have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on construction projects with a duration of three months or longer, with 20 or more workers employed on the jobsite. This requirement will help save lives, ensuring that workers can be protected in emergency situations."

- Marc Arsenault

Business Manager & Secretary-Treasurer, Provincial Building & Construction Trades Council of Ontario

"We are encouraged by the government's proposal to improve safety on construction sites. Having Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) readily available can mean the difference between life and death. This is a vital step toward protecting Ontario's construction workers. Every second counts in a cardiac emergency, and this proposal is a meaningful step in making job sites safer across the province."

- Jon Lane

Chief Executive Officer of the AED Foundation of Ontario

Additional Resources

- [Guide to the Occupational Health and Safety Act](#)
- [Workplace Safety and Insurance Board](#)

Related Topics

Health and Wellness

Get help navigating Ontario's health care system and connecting with the programs or services you're looking for. [Learn more](#)

Jobs and Employment

We've got the resource and supports to help connect job seekers with employers. [Learn more](#)

Law and Safety

Ontario's laws and related information about our legal system, emergency services, the Ontario Provincial Police and victim services. [Learn more](#)

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Ontario Investing in Modern New Policing Facilities to Protect Communities

Province building 12 new OPP detachments and regional HQ in Thunder Bay

May 23, 2025

[Solicitor General](#)

TORONTO — As part of its plan to protect Ontario and keep communities safe, the government is building 12 new Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) detachments and a regional headquarters in Thunder Bay.

“Our government is making record investments to fight crime and protect Ontario communities,” said Solicitor General Michael Kerzner. “Once built, these new state-of-the-art facilities will respond to the demands of modern police operations and ensure the OPP have the tools and facilities they need to crack down on crime and protect our communities.”

In addition to building a new regional headquarters in Thunder Bay, the government is also building new OPP detachments in Ignace, Niagara, Bracebridge, New Liskeard, Burlington, Kenora, Lancaster, Red Lake, Sioux Lookout, Killaloe, Espanola/McKerrow and Wawa.

“This project demonstrates a shared commitment with our government to ensure the OPP is as effective as possible at keeping communities safe,” said OPP Commissioner Thomas Carrique. “Providing our officers, civilian and volunteer members with these modern new facilities will better position the OPP to evolve as we strive to be our very best at delivering on our public safety mandate.”

In partnership with Infrastructure Ontario, the province is launching a competitive process to find qualified teams to help design, build, and finance the new detachments. Interested parties can visit www.merx.com to download the Request for Qualifications (RFQ).

Additional Resources

[Infrastructure Ontario Project Page](#)

Related Topics

Law and Safety

Ontario’s laws and related information about our legal system, emergency services, the Ontario Provincial Police and victim services. [Learn more](#)

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Ontario Providing Record Education Funding while Ensuring School Board Accountability

Province working to ensure every dollar of school funding supports students in the classroom

May 23, 2025

[Education](#)

TORONTO — While ensuring school board accountability and transparency, the Ontario government is providing record education funding as part of its plan to protect Ontario and prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow. In 2025-26, Ontario is investing \$30.3 billion in Core Education Funding for the upcoming school year so schools can continue to deliver high-quality education with a back-to-basics approach that prepares students and our workforce with practical skills for good-paying, stable careers.

“I have been clear with school boards across the province that we expect every dollar to be spent on directly supporting students, parents and teachers,” said Paul Calandra, Minister of Education. “While we continue to make record investments into our students’ future, I will be relentless in holding school boards accountable on the way they spend these funds.”

Ontario’s education funding helps strengthen core skills in reading and math, ensure support for students with special education needs and provide access to mental health services.

For the 2025-26 school year, these investments include:

- \$16.5 billion to support classroom staff, including teachers, kindergarten early childhood educators and educational assistants
- \$4.7 billion to fund staff who support students outside the classroom, such as librarians, guidance counsellors, mental health workers and school administrators, as well as classroom materials and equipment
- \$3.9 billion for special education to provide access to supports and resources for students with special education needs
- \$3 billion for school boards to operate, maintain, renovate and renew school buildings

- \$1.4 billion to fund safe, effective and efficient transportation services

Ontario is increasing school renewal funding to \$2 billion for the 2025-26 school year, primarily through capital funding, to modernize and improve school buildings, which includes new targeted investments to support accessible and healthy learning environments. This is in addition to the \$1.3 billion the government is investing through the [Capital Priorities program](#) to support 45 new schools and expansions. These projects will create more than 25,000 new student spaces and more than 1,600 licenced child care spaces across 23 school boards.

These investments are a part of the government's plan to build a strong, accountable and well-supported public education system that is focused on improving student outcomes. Ontario is moving quickly to bring forward enhanced governance measures in the coming weeks. These changes would provide broader and modernized powers of the government's oversight of school board financial, governance and program performance, including giving the Minister the ability to respond quickly to public concerns.

Quick Facts

- Last year, the province introduced the new [Core Education Funding model](#), which clearly identifies key funding pillars supporting students – from classroom staffing to school board administration – making it easier for parents and guardians to understand funding allocation and strengthening school board accountability.
- While Ontario provides annual funding to the province's school boards, they are accountable for the quality of educational programs, student performance and the prudent management of financial resources.
- When performance or financial issues occur within school boards, the Ministry of Education can [conduct reviews](#) and/or financial investigations in respect of those matters.
- Since April 2025, Ontario has [appointed a supervisor](#) to oversee the Thames Valley District School Board and [launched financial investigations](#) at the Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic District School Board and Ottawa-Carleton District School Board.

Additional Resources

[Education funding for school boards, 2025–2026](#)

[Guide to the 2025–2026 Special Education Fund](#)

[Ontario Increasing School Board Accountability to Protect Students, Families and Taxpayer Funds](#)

[Province Improving Accountability and Transparency in Ontario Schools](#)

[Making Ontario Education Funding More Transparent and Easier to Understand](#)

[Learn how we fund schools and how funding supports student achievement and well-being](#)

[Ontario Making Historic \\$1.3 Billion Investment to Build and Expand More Schools](#)

Related Topics

Education and Training

Learn about Ontario's early years, education and training systems. Includes information on child care, elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities, skills training and financial aid. [Learn more](#)

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Plan Your Destination Ontario Getaway This Summer

New campaign showcases some of Ontario's premier travel, culinary and artistic destinations

May 26, 2025

[Tourism, Culture and Gaming](#)

TORONTO – As summer nears, there has never been a better time to explore and celebrate all the beauty and culture Ontario has to offer. In the face of U.S. tariffs, continued economic uncertainty and renewed interest in travelling within Canada, the Ontario government is launching a new marketing campaign to encourage domestic travel and protect local Ontario businesses. The [We Stand](#) campaign features breathtaking Ontario landscapes, from Pelee Island to the Lake of the Woods, as well as many of the province's top culinary and visual artists.

"At a time when so many families are looking for made-in-Canada adventures, our campaign invites people to explore their own backyard and discover the rich, diverse tourism destinations our province has to offer," said Stan Cho, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming. "Now more than ever, it is vital that we stand together to support our local communities and celebrate the people and experiences that make Ontario the best place in the world to live, work and visit."

The We Stand campaign highlights the communities and local businesses, people and places across the province that make Ontario unforgettable, and features some of the province's top performers, brewmasters, farmers, culinary artists and winemakers.

Ontario's tourism industry is a cornerstone of the provincial economy, supporting more than 325,000 jobs and 92,000 businesses in every corner of the province and contributing \$32 billion to its GDP. In all, this year, the provincial government is investing nearly \$200 million to protect Ontario's tourism sector, including support for over [350 festivals and events across the province](#) and grants for regional tourism organizations, agencies and attractions.

Quick Facts

- The campaign can be seen on television, digital billboards, in cinemas and social media platforms and heard on radios and digital audio channels.
- [Destination Ontario](#) offers inspiration, trip planning and travel advice – from extended stay trip ideas for solo and group travel to active getaways, relaxing vacations and experiences in diverse locations across the province.
- Nearly 9 in 10 Ontario residents expect to take an overnight pleasure trip within the province this year.

Quotes

"We Stand is more than a campaign — it's a call to explore, connect, and take pride in the places and people that shape Ontario's identity. Through powerful storytelling and bold visuals, this campaign invites Ontarians to rediscover the province and support the tourism businesses that are vital to our communities. At Destination Ontario, we're proud to lead this initiative with our agency of record, Broken Heart Love Affair, and to inspire travel that celebrates the richness and diversity of experiences right here at home."

- Vincenza Ronaldi
CEO of Destination Ontario

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Ontario Helping Workers Access Skills Training Faster

Province cutting red tape to speed up construction of training centres and support workers impacted by tariffs and economic uncertainty

May 26, 2025

[Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development](#)

RICHMOND HILL — The Ontario government will soon introduce a series of proposed changes to protect workers, including cutting red tape to accelerate the construction of Skills Development Fund (SDF) training centres at a time when these centres are needed to support workers impacted by U.S. tariffs and economic uncertainty. The government is also proposing a number of other measures that would support workers, including workers who are directly impacted by tariff-related layoffs or other disruptions.

“Ontario workers are counting on us to have their backs by helping them access the skills training they need to stay on the job, despite the impact of U.S. tariffs,” said David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. “We’re making sure our [\\$2.5 billion investment in SDF](#) is going directly to the workers who need it most and we will continue fighting to protect Ontario workers no matter what comes our way.”

To ensure Ontario builds a competitive and resilient workforce that is ready for whatever comes the province’s way, the proposed legislative and regulatory amendments would exempt training centres supported by the [SDF Capital Stream](#) from certain permit and approval requirements that can slow down construction and impede Ontario's ability to quickly build essential training facilities. By exempting these projects from certain items related to the land use planning system, while maintaining health and safety focused permits and approvals such as those under the Ontario Building Code and the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*, training partners will be able to get these centres built and start training workers faster.

Other proposed changes to support workers include:

- Requiring job posting platforms to have mechanisms to report fraudulent job advertisements to ensure workers are not exploited throughout their pursuit of

work.

- Keeping workers on the job by eliminating unnecessary barriers for construction projects required to implement Chief Prevention Officer (CPO)-accredited health and safety management systems as part of the procurement process. This will increase competition and accelerate project timelines.
- Allowing Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP) employer applicants to submit their applications directly and electronically to the new OINP employer portal that will launch in Summer 2025.

The proposal is part of a larger proposed package that will expand on the ground-breaking actions across six previous Working for Workers Acts since 2021 and which will be unveiled in the coming days. This latest package will help protect Ontario workers and the economy for the long-term, create safer workplaces for a stronger workforce and fight worker abuse by cracking down on bad actors. This is all part of our plan to protect Ontario by supporting workers, cutting red tape and making Ontario the most competitive place in the G7 to invest, create jobs and do business.

Quick Facts

- The Skills Development Fund Training Stream, training and support centres and Employment Ontario are supported through labour market transfer agreements between the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.
 - The Skills Development Fund Capital Stream is funded exclusively by the Government of Ontario.
 - The Capital Stream has two pathways. The new SEED pathway of the Capital Stream helps fund the development of capital plans for training facilities and complements the already established GROW pathway that continues to support projects to build, upgrade and expand new training infrastructure.
 - The Skills Development Fund Capital Stream is currently accepting applications to help build new training centres and renovate existing ones.
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Quotes

"We're putting Ontario workers first by making it easier to get shovels in the ground faster, keeping our province strong and competitive. With the U.S. tariffs threatening our economy, we're taking decisive action to train our workers and protect good-paying Ontario jobs."

- Rob Flack

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

"In today's economy, the ability to build and expand union training centres without unnecessary hurdles is essential. These facilities are where we train the workforce that builds Ontario—especially in times of transition. Streamlining the process will help us get shovels in the ground faster and deliver results where they're needed. And we can do it on time, on budget and most importantly, safely."

- Adam MacGillivray

Business Manager / FS.T., IRON WORKERS LOCAL 759

"On behalf of Local 787, we are pleased with the Government's intent to legislate the removal of permitting requirements needed to build critical training infrastructure. This move, if passed in the House, will allow training partners, such as Local 787, to get shovels in the ground more easily, faster, on time and on budget. All of this will help train and keep more skilled trades workers in Ontario. We commend the leadership of Premier Doug Ford and the Hon. David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development for their leadership."

- Andrew Tarr

Business Manager, HVAC&R Workers of Ontario, UA Local 787

"These proposed changes show the commitment of Minister Piccini and Premier Ford on training the next generation of skilled workers. LiUNA Local 506 welcomes these changes as they are necessary to increase the capacity of training and skills development that is needed to build our schools, hospitals, and critical infrastructure. By removing the unnecessary processes that resulted in increased costs and timely delays, new facilities will be built faster providing the training space for the workers who are building Ontario."

- Carmen Principato
Business Manager, LiUNA Local 506

"The Ontario Road Builders Association welcomes the Ministry's commitment to ensure ISO 45001 and COR® 2020 are treated equivalently for public procurements. Our members are dedicated to the highest standards of health and safety, and addressing equivalency recognition will help reduce unnecessary duplication while ensuring robust oversight. This move will continue to promote competition in the industry and ensure value for money on behalf of Ontario taxpayers."

- Steven Crombie
Senior Director of Public Affairs, Ontario Road Builders' Association

"We applaud Minister Piccini for his tireless work to ensure that Ontario's occupational health and safety management systems accurately and fairly reflect construction industry's realities. Legislating equivalencies between ISO and COR in Ontario will provide consistency, stability and predictability while removing unnecessary regulatory burdens and continuing to promote and prioritize the health and safety of all workers."

- Peter Smith
Executive Director, Heavy Construction Association of Toronto (HCAT)

"The Carpenters' Regional Council and UBC Local 93 are pleased to see the Ontario Government streamlining land use planning requirements to expedite the approvals processes for current and future SDF Capital projects. By reducing the timelines for permits to get shovels in the ground, we will be able to deliver bricks and mortar upgrades to our state-of-the-art Carpenters' Union Training Centres more quickly, adding more apprenticeship seats for young people to pursue rewarding careers in the skilled trades. As we move to increase our self-reliance in the face of the uncertain economic reality south of the border, these changes will ensure Ontario continues to create more jobs and less red tape."

- Marco Van Mechelen
Coordinator, UBC Local 93

"Premier Ford and Minister Piccini are taking decisive action to recognize the thousands of construction companies that are investing in and creating safe workplaces for their employees. This legislation will ensure that all construction companies with a Ministry-accredited health and safety management system in Ontario have the opportunity to bid and build the critical infrastructure Ontarians rely on."

- Patrick McManus
Executive Director, Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction
Association

Additional Resources

- [Working for Workers Six Act, 2024](#)
- [Working For Workers Five Act, 2024](#)
- [Working for Workers Four Act, 2024](#)
- [Working for Workers Act, 2023](#)
- [Working for Workers Act, 2022](#)
- [Working for Workers Act, 2021](#)
- [Ontario Protecting Workers on Construction Sites](#)

Related Topics

Education and Training

Learn about Ontario's early years, education and training systems. Includes information on child care, elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities, skills training and financial aid. [Learn more](#)

Jobs and Employment

We've got the resource and supports to help connect job seekers with employers. [Learn more](#)

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Ontario Strengthening Emergency Preparedness

New legislation would ensure response plans are tailored to local needs and enshrine Ontario Corps in law

May 26, 2025

[Emergency Preparedness and Response](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is taking action to protect communities and build a stronger and more resilient province by reintroducing the *Emergency Management Modernization Act, 2025*. The proposed legislation will enhance public safety and disaster response measures, including making Ontario Corps a key function of emergency responses in the province.

"Extreme weather events like the ice storm this spring are unfortunately becoming more frequent. Our legislation reflects the need to be more prepared in the event of an emergency," said Jill Dunlop, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response. "That's why our government is recognizing the critical need for Ontario Corps, so they can be deployed at a moment's notice to help protect families and build a stronger, safer and more resilient Ontario."

[Ontario Corps](#) brings together experienced non-governmental partners and skilled volunteers to enhance on-the-ground emergency response that can be deployed quickly to support communities across the province. During the spring ice storm, Ontario Corps partners volunteered over 6,000 hours, delivering generators, providing 3,725 meals and food hampers, conducting over 4,100 wellness checks, providing tree-clearing services and supporting evacuation reception centres.

Following the establishment of the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response as a standalone ministry with a dedicated minister in March, this legislation, if passed, would enable a more effective, coordinated and comprehensive approach to provincial and community emergency management. The changes would prioritize community-led approaches that help municipalities design emergency management programs that reflect their unique needs and capacities.

Enhancing Ontario's emergency management capacity is part of the government's plan to build a stronger and more resilient province with the necessary tools in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of people across the province.

Quick Facts

- The proposed *Emergency Management Modernization Act, 2025* is the first comprehensive update to Ontario's emergency management legislation in more than 15 years.
 - The legislation is informed by valuable feedback from partners, best practices in emergency management and lessons learned from past emergencies. The province engaged with more than 550 partners, including municipalities, First Nations communities and emergency management organizations. The ministry also received 91 written submissions on a publicly posted discussion guide.
 - The legislation builds on the government's Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan that outlines key actions the province is taking to ensure communities are safe, practiced and prepared before, during and after emergencies.
 - Ontario is building a new Emergency Preparedness and Response Headquarters. The new state-of-the-art complex will be designed to support the province's work to prepare for and respond to all types of disasters that will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year. It will include dedicated training rooms and warehousing and aviation infrastructure and will be built to withstand all types of disasters including earthquakes, tornadoes and floods.
-

Quotes

"The City of Orillia commends the Ontario government for taking decisive action to strengthen Ontario's emergency preparedness. In the wake of the 2025 ice storm that deeply impacted our community, we understand firsthand the critical importance of strong, modern emergency management with supports like Ontario Corps. This legislation is essential to ensuring communities like ours have the coordination, resources, and support needed to respond effectively in times of crisis."

**- Mayor Don McIsaac
City of Orillia**

"Municipalities are on the frontlines of managing emergencies that are increasing in frequency and complexity. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario welcomes provincial leadership to improve the emergency management system through the Emergency Management and Modernization Act."

**- Robin Jones
President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Mayor of
Westport**

"From floods, fires, pandemics and cyberattacks, rural municipalities across Ontario are managing a growing number of emergencies. Strong coordination is needed between provincial, municipal and other partners to ensure we're best prepared to respond. ROMA supports this provincial action to modernize the emergency management system."

**- Christa Lowry
Chair of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association and Mayor of Mississippi
Mills**

"As we mark three years since the EF2 tornado tore through Uxbridge's heritage downtown, I strongly support the Ontario government's efforts to modernize emergency management legislation. Smaller communities like ours rely on timely, coordinated support from the province. The proposed Emergency Management Modernization Act, 2025 will help ensure that Ontario municipalities can depend on the province to protect residents and strengthen community resilience."

**- Mayor Dave Barton
Township of Uxbridge**

"Team Rubicon Canada welcomes Ontario's efforts to modernize emergency management through this legislation. As a humanitarian organization with a proven track record in disaster services, we know that effective response takes a Whole-of-Society approach and this Act reflects that spirit, creating space for trusted partners to support public systems and meet people where they are. We're proud to serve as a reliable auxiliary to government when it matters most."

**- Bryan Riddell
CEO, Team Rubicon Canada**

"The Salvation Army welcomes this new Act as a meaningful step forward in strengthening how we prepare for and respond to emergencies across the province. By enhancing collaboration between all levels of government and community-based partners, this legislation supports a more coordinated and compassionate approach to disaster response."

**- Stephanie Couturier
Divisional Director of Emergency Disaster Services, The Salvation Army
Ontario Division**

"The number of disasters is rising placing more people in harm's way. Modernizing legislation is an important step to help the province of Ontario improve its capacity to respond, help people who are impacted and ultimately save lives. At GlobalMedic, we have a lot of experience responding to disasters and have seen the positive impact when communities are better prepared and have more capacity in the event of disasters. We applaud the improvements and changes being put forward in Ontario that will save lives."

- Rahul Singh

O. Ont, Founder and Executive Director – GlobalMedic

"Ogimaawabiitong, as a leader in supporting First Nation communities during emergency incidents is grateful for the support from the province during times of crisis."

- Jennifer Dreaver

Executive Director, Ogimaawabiitong – Kenora Chiefs Advisory

"Together with our 211 system partners, we are proud to be an Ontario Corps partner, providing an accessible public information channel for communities in times of crises. We look forward to working with Premier Ford and Minister Dunlop to support timely and well-coordinated emergency responses for Ontarians, particularly for vulnerable populations across our province."

- Karen Milligan

Executive Director, Ontario 211 Services

"We recognize the significance of this legislation as the first comprehensive update in over 15 years and are encouraged by the government's commitment to modernizing emergency coordination, enhancing community-level capacity, and ensuring robust deployment mechanisms through Ontario Corps. These measures are essential to better protect the safety and well-being of all Ontarians."

- Mayor Sandie Macdonald

Essa Township

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Modernizing Emergency Management](#)
- [Emergency Management in Ontario](#)
- [Emergency Preparedness](#)
- [Ontario Corps](#)

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Ontario Supporting Recipients of Disability Benefits

Province exempting Canada Disability Benefit as income to protect recipients from benefit reductions

May 27, 2025

[Children, Community and Social Services](#)

TORONTO – The Ontario government intends to exempt the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) as income so that social assistance recipients would receive the benefit without seeing a reduction in their provincial social assistance payments or entitlements. The changes would help recipients of the [Ontario Disability Support Program](#) (ODSP), [Ontario Works](#) and the [Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities](#) (ACSD) program receive their maximum entitlements.

“In a time of unprecedented economic uncertainty brought on by [U.S. \(United States\)](#) tariffs and trade barriers, our government is taking action to keep costs down and protect Ontario families,” said Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. “This starts with safeguarding our most vulnerable, which is why we are exempting the Canada Disability Benefit as income so people who rely on social assistance receive the benefit without seeing any reductions in their social assistance payments.”

The [CDB \(Canada Disability Benefit\)](#) offers up to \$200 each month (\$2,400 each year) for eligible low-income, working-age Canadians with disabilities. By exempting the [CDB \(Canada Disability Benefit\)](#), social assistance recipients will be able to fully benefit from the new program. Today’s announcement furthers Ontario’s commitment to protect families by building a more effective and efficient social assistance system that supports those who need it most.

This change would build on work the government has done to strengthen social assistance, such as tying [ODSP \(Ontario Disability Support Program\)](#) and [ACSD \(Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities\)](#) rates to inflation and increasing the earnings exemption for people with a disability receiving [ODSP \(Ontario Disability Support Program\)](#). Ontario continues to call on the federal government to amend its *Income Tax Act* so this new benefit has the broadest possible reach.

Quick Facts

- Ontario also fully exempts financial supports for veterans through the [Soldiers' Aid Commission](#) under ODSP (Ontario Disability Support Program) and Ontario Works, and continues to support Truth and Reconciliation efforts with exemptions specifically for Indigenous persons who receive social assistance.
- ODSP (Ontario Disability Support Program) rates and the maximum monthly ACSD (Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities) payment are now tied to inflation. The next inflation-based rate increase will take place this July. Since September 2022, the government has increased social assistance disability payments by almost 17 per cent.
- Ontario has increased the earnings exemption for a person with a disability receiving ODSP (Ontario Disability Support Program). An individual can now earn up to \$1,000 a month through employment without it affecting their income support, benefits or eligibility.
- In addition to financial support, Ontario Works recipients receive employment supports through [Employment Ontario](#) to help people get the training, skills and experience they need to find and keep a job. These supports include workshops for resume writing, job counselling, job-specific training and basic education.
- Information about the Canada Disability Benefit, including eligibility and how to apply for the benefit, is available at the [Government of Canada's website](#).

Quotes

"Daily Bread Food Bank thanks the Ontario government for exempting the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) as income for ODSP, Ontario Works and ACSD so recipients can continue to receive their full provincial social assistance payments. With 1 in 4 food bank clients in Toronto reporting a disability, today's announcement will help reduce food insecurity for some of our most vulnerable Ontarians as they navigate through the uncertain economic times ahead. We join Ontario in continuing to call on the federal government to exempt the CDB from being treated as income under the Income Tax Act."

- Neil Hetherington
CEO, Daily Bread Food Bank

"With May being Community Living Month in Ontario, we are pleased to hear that the Government of Ontario is fulfilling its promise to tie Ontario Disability Support Program levels to increases in inflation. This is an important measure that allows people who rely on ODSP to keep pace with the ever-increasing cost of living. We also welcome the news that the Government of Ontario has accepted our recommendation to not reduce ODSP payments for those who will receive the federal Canada Disability Benefit. While there is still much to be done to raise income support to livable levels in Ontario, these are two essential steps that will put more money in people's pockets."

- Chris Beesley
CEO, Community Living Ontario

"Making life more affordable is a critical challenge, particularly for those dependent on ODSP. The government's commitment to adjust ODSP in line with inflation and guarantee that the CDB does not reduce the amount are strong steps in the right direction. We look forward to working with the government to continue this progress towards an Ontario where everyone belongs!"

- Brad Saunders
CEO, Community Living Toronto

"Reena welcomes the Ontario government's decision to exempt the Canada Disability Benefit from income. This move demonstrates a strong commitment to equity and ensures that individuals with disabilities can fully benefit from both federal and provincial supports without penalty. As a leader in the developmental services sector, Reena believes this is a vital step forward in promoting financial stability and dignity for our most vulnerable citizens."

- Bryan Keshen
CEO, Reena

Additional Resources

- [Social Assistance](#)
 - [Canada Disability Benefit](#)
-

Related Topics

Taxes and Benefits

Learn about taxes in Ontario and what they support, including tax credits you can get to help you with living and business costs. [Learn more](#)

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Ontario Protecting Communities from Wildland Fires and Hazardous Gas Wells

Province re-introducing legislation to help communities reduce risks of wildland fires and hazardous oil and gas wells, and enable safe use of carbon storage technology

May 27, 2025

[Natural Resources](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government is re-introducing the [Resource Management and Safety Act, 2025](#) that, if passed, would help protect communities from the risk of wildland fires and hazardous oil and gas wells. The legislation would also help attract more land surveyors to the profession to support Ontario's plan to build more homes and other infrastructure, as well as enable and regulate the use of carbon storage technology.

"We're focused on protecting Ontario's long-term prosperity and ensuring our communities are equipped to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow," said Mike Harris, Minister of Natural Resources. "This legislation takes a comprehensive approach to speeding up the building of homes and other critical infrastructure while protecting the environment and public safety. By adopting innovative technologies and cutting red tape, we're not only creating good jobs and helping industries succeed – we're ensuring Ontario thrives in a challenging global economy."

The *Resource Management and Safety Act, 2025*, includes the following changes:

- **Strengthening community resiliency** by modernizing the *Forest Fires Prevention Act* to enhance wildland fire prevention and preparedness, including new requirements for wildland fire management plans and stricter penalties for those who don't follow wildland fire laws, to reduce the risk of unwanted human-caused fires.
- **Helping to protect the public and environment** from the threat of hazardous oil and gas wells with changes to the *Oil, Gas, and Salt Resources Act* that would allow the ministry to take immediate action to address hazardous oil and gas wells that pose a public safety risk when an operator is not compliant with a

ministry order in certain circumstances, such as death or bankruptcy, and recover costs of any action taken on the well.

- **Supporting rapid infrastructure and housing development needs** by proposing to amend the *Surveyors Act* to enhance the vital role land surveyors play in the province's development and growth and help attract more surveyors to the profession to support their key role in helping ensure access to safe and affordable housing options.

"This is a challenging time for the forestry sector and for trade-dependent businesses and workers," said Kevin Holland, Associate Minister of Forestry and Forest Products. "Prevention efforts to mitigate the risks of unwanted wildland fires are essential to the vitality of our forest industry and those communities who depend on it. By ensuring the long-term health of our forests, we will safeguard jobs, protect critical building materials and enhance the safety and resilience of our communities."

As part of the *Resource Management and Safety Act, 2025*, the Ontario government is also proposing a new *Geologic Carbon Storage Act*, to support innovation and manage carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. If passed, the Act would enable the regulation of commercial-scale geologic carbon storage, which involves injecting captured CO₂, that would have otherwise entered the atmosphere, into deep underground rock formations for permanent storage. This advanced technology could help energy-intensive industries cut greenhouse gas emissions by 5 to 7 million tonnes per year, create over 4,000 short-term jobs and reduce carbon costs for Ontario industries by nearly \$1 billion a year, all while ensuring public safety.

The ministry will continue to engage with stakeholders and Indigenous communities to develop supporting regulations and revise the proposed framework as industry brings forward commercial-scale project proposals.

"By supporting innovative carbon storage technology, we are enhancing Ontario's competitiveness, attracting new investment, creating jobs and driving economic growth – positioning the province as a leader in the global market," said Dawn Gallagher Murphy, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources. "Geologic carbon storage offers a significant opportunity for Ontario, and the ministry is dedicated to developing a framework that ensures its safe implementation while safeguarding both people and the environment."

If the *Resource Management and Safety Act, 2025* is passed, the province will continue to engage in consultations and develop necessary regulations to support its implementation.

Quick Facts

- Ontario's *Forest Fires Prevention Act* has not received significant updates since 1999. These proposed amendments would enable the use of more modern enforcement tools.
 - The *Surveyors Act* has not substantially changed since 1987. Proposed changes would allow companies to leverage technology and other modern business practices to deliver improved services.
 - During the 2024 wildland fire season, which runs from April to October, there were 480 fires and 89,841 hectares of forests burned.
 - According to the Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute – an international think tank seeking to accelerate the deployment of carbon capture and storage – there were almost 400 carbon capture and storage projects at various stages of development worldwide in 2023 and close to 300 million tonnes of CO₂ has already been injected underground.
-

Quotes

"The Association of Land Surveyors of Ontario is pleased to see the Ministry of Natural Resources' proposed changes to the Surveyors Act. These changes will modernize and enhance the skilled profession of land surveying in Ontario and allow our organization to continue to advance our mandate of protecting the public. As the demand for safe, affordable housing and infrastructure continues to rise, land surveyors will remain essential in building the future of our province and meeting the demands of a growing economy. I thank the province for their continued support of our profession."

- Al Jeraj

Executive Director of The Association of Ontario Land Surveyors

"The Chemistry Industry Association of Canada applauds the Ministry of Natural Resources on the continued progress towards enabling commercial-scale geologic storage of carbon in the province. The chemistry sector is transforming to achieve net-zero carbon emissions and carbon storage is an essential component. Carbon storage is recognized and supported by the federal government and is operational elsewhere in Canada."

- Don Fusco

Regional Director, Ontario and Corporate Secretary, Chemistry Industry Association of Canada

"This legislation is a major step forward in strengthening Ontario's clean energy advantage. By enabling geologic carbon storage, we're unlocking new opportunities for our energy-intensive industries to reduce emissions and remain globally competitive – solutions like this show that we don't have to choose between economic growth and the environment. Carbon capture is not only key to reducing industrial emissions, it's also essential to advancing hydrogen production and alternative energy solutions. This approach will help attract investment, drive innovation, and support good-paying jobs across Ontario."

- Sam Oosterhoff

Associate Minister of Energy-Intensive Industries

"AMO applauds provincial action to modernize wildfire management. More frequent and intense wildfires due to climate change create significant risks for people and resources. Provincial-municipal partnership to prevent, prepare for, mitigate and respond to wildfires is needed to protect our forests and keep our communities safe."

- Robin Jones

President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario and Mayor of Westport

"The Ministry's proposed amendments to the Forest Fires Prevention Act sends a clear message: protecting our forests and reducing human-caused fires is a shared responsibility that requires strong action and commitment from everyone. Expanding prevention efforts marks a critical step in safeguarding our communities and the environment."

- Rick Dumas

Mayor, Town of Marathon and President, Northwestern Ontario
Municipalities Association

"Chatham-Kent is thankful that the Government of Ontario is supporting our community by continuing to make changes to prevent or reduce the impact of oil and gas well emergencies in the future. The legislative changes proposed are a necessary step to protecting our resources and enhancing community safety."

- Darrin Canniff

Mayor, Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Additional Resources

- [Resource Management and Safety Act, 2025](#)
- [Protect Ontario – Speech from the Throne](#)
- [Ontario's response to wildland fires](#)
- [Find out how to prevent forest fires](#)
- [Learn more about the science behind fire](#)
- [Geologic carbon storage](#)

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Ontario Introduces Seventh Working for Workers Act

New measures help more workers train for in-demand jobs, strengthen worker health and safety and protect workers affected by U.S. tariffs

May 28, 2025

[Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government introduced the *Working for Workers Seven Act, 2025*, which builds on the previous six *Working for Workers* acts with a suite of 18 new proposed measures that will, if passed, protect Ontario workers and the economy in the face of U.S. tariffs and create safer workplaces for a stronger workforce.

“Our government is protecting Ontario workers by standing up for them when they need it the most,” said David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. “We’re proposing changes that will prepare workers and businesses for the jobs of the future, while helping workers facing impacts from U.S. tariffs and economic uncertainty. This package underscores our unwavering commitment to protecting our province’s most valuable resource – our workers.”

In addition to [protecting workers on construction sites by requiring automatic external defibrillators \(AEDs\)](#) and [helping workers access skills training faster by cutting red tape for Skills Development Fund Capital projects](#), this package would also enhance protections against job scams for prospective job seekers and expand entitlements for workers to provide better support in the event of layoffs.

The full list of proposed changes in *Working for Workers Seven Act, 2025*, can be read [here](#).

This proposed legislation follows the *Working for Workers Six Act, 2024*, which received [Royal Assent](#) in December 2024. It is the latest step in our plan to protect Ontario, give workers and employers the tools, support and opportunities they need in the face of U.S. tariffs and economic uncertainty.

Quick Facts

- In 2024, the federal Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) reported an increase in job opportunity fraud. The CAFC found that economic losses in Canada due to job fraud rose to \$47 million in 2024, and losses in Ontario amounted to \$14.86 million due to job scams – the highest among all provinces in Canada.
- During consultations held as part of Working for Workers Five, construction industry stakeholders recommended AEDs as essential devices to have on site and highlighted the need for financial support to help small businesses with the purchase of these devices. Data from the Ministry shows that more than 15 per cent of inspection reports associated with “cardiac” or “heart attack” were in the construction sector.
- The Skills Development Fund Training Stream, training and support centres and Employment Ontario are supported through labour market transfer agreements between the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.
- The Skills Development Fund Capital Stream is funded exclusively by the Government of Ontario.

Quotes

"ACTRA Toronto applauds the Ministry's continued efforts to prioritize fairness, financial safeguards, and opportunity for Ontario's workers. The new measures proposed in the Working for Workers Seven Act recognize the real challenges performers face in a rapidly evolving industry and world. We're especially encouraged by the emphasis on workplace safety, financial transparency, and expanding access to meaningful skills training."

- Kate Ziegler,
President, ACTRA Toronto

"RCCAO commends Minister Piccini for continuously demonstrating a steadfast commitment to improving the lives of workers in Ontario, including the men and women building the critical infrastructure we all rely on. Working for Workers Seven Act contains important and positive steps for industry. By enhancing OINP with more flexible selection streams, mandating AEDs on construction sites, recognizing ISO/COR equivalencies and cutting red tape to accelerate the construction of training centres, the government is taking meaningful, worker-first action. These initiatives show real leadership in supporting skilled trades and ensuring safer and stronger workplaces across the province."

**- Nadia Todorova, Executive Director,
Residential and Civil Construction of Ontario (RCCAO)**

"The Ontario Road Builders' Association applauds Minister Piccini and the Government of Ontario for introducing practical, life-saving measures in the Working for Workers Seven Act. Requiring AEDs on large construction sites will save lives by ensuring timely intervention during cardiac emergencies—especially in remote or high-risk environments. Recognizing Chief Prevention Officer-accredited health and safety management systems in procurement will cut red tape, reduce duplication, and lower the cost of construction. Taken together, these changes will help Ontario's road building industry deliver projects more safely and efficiently—benefiting workers, taxpayers, and communities across the province."

**- Walid Abou-Hamde,
CEO, Ontario Road Builders' Association**

"Working for Workers 7 is another step in the right direction for Ontario, growing the supports seen in previous legislation to protect workers, reduce red tape, and get more projects built. A number of important measures within this bill will accomplish these goals, including streamlining SDF Capital projects, mandating AEDs on large jobsites, and fighting WSIB premium fraud. The Carpenters' Regional Council is proud to support this legislation which will help workers and strengthens our industry."

**- Tom Cardinal,
President and Chief of Staff, Carpenters' Regional Council**

"The Provincial Building Trades Council appreciates the commitment to further legislation to support workers. Automated External Defibrillators (AED) on construction projects will help save lives, ensuring that workers can be protected in emergency situations. "

**- Marc Arsenault,
Business Manager & Secretary-Treasurer, Provincial Building &
Construction Trades Council of Ontario**

"The Mechanical Contractors Association of Ontario applauds Minister Piccini and the Ontario government for their continued leadership through the Working for Workers 7 legislation. Strengthening and harmonizing Ontario's health and safety management system is a critical step toward protecting workers, lowering costs, and enhancing our industry's overall competitiveness. We are particularly supportive of initiatives that deliver practical, measurable impact—such as the requirement for AEDs on larger construction sites. These changes reflect a shared commitment to fostering safer, more resilient job sites across the province."

**- Jeff Spitzig,
Executive Vice President, Mechanical Contractors Association Ontario**

"Skills Ontario applauds the Ontario government's continued investment in the skilled trades. We're proud to partner on initiatives like the expanded Trades & Tech Truck Program, giving more young people hands-on opportunities to explore rewarding careers. These investments—driven by the leadership of Premier Ford, Minister Piccini, and this government—demonstrate a clear commitment to building the skilled workforce our economy needs."

**- Ian Howcroft,
CEO, Skills Ontario**

"In the face of U.S. tariffs, protecting our economy starts with protecting our workers. The Working for Workers Seven Act, 2025 is a multipronged effort to build a strong and sustainable workforce in Ontario. By enhancing workplace safety, supporting smoother transitions for laid-off workers, and ensuring access to skilled labour through the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program, we are not only protecting our economy, we are investing in long-term resilience and stability."

**- Nick Simone,
President and CEO, Pace Law**

"Premier Ford and Minister Piccini are taking decisive action to recognize the thousands of construction companies that are investing in and creating safe workplaces for their employees. This legislation will ensure that all construction companies with a Ministry-accredited health and safety management system in Ontario have the opportunity to bid and build the critical public infrastructure Ontarians rely on."

**- Patrick McManus,
Executive Director, Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction
Association**

"These new measures are a strong signal that Ontario is serious about building a future-ready workforce while supporting employers through practical, forward-thinking labour policies. HRAI applauds the government's commitment to streamlining training centre development, extending layoff flexibility, and reducing red tape—steps that will allow our HVACR sector to remain resilient, competitive, and prepared for growth. These changes offer our members greater clarity and flexibility to manage their workforce, invest in skills development, and access the talent they need to drive innovation and meet the evolving demands of the built environment."

**- Sandy MacLeod,
President & CEO, HRAI**

"PCA has long advocated for a level playing field and competitiveness in procurement. We are delighted that the government is making improvements to construction procurement by ensuring our members' significant investments in health and safety are recognized across all publicly tendered projects."

**- Karen Renkema,
Vice President, Ontario, Progressive Contractors Association of Canada
(PCA)**

"The Ontario Trucking Association applauds Minister Piccini for introducing Working for Workers Seven, which includes critical measures to enhance protections for workers across the province. Strengthening compliance with the WSIB is a significant step toward ensuring all employers meet their responsibilities and that workers receive the protection they deserve. These actions help level the playing field for law-abiding businesses and reinforce Ontario's commitment to fair and safe workplaces."

**- Stephen Laskowski,
President and CEO, Ontario Trucking Association**

Additional Resources

- [Working For Workers Seven Act, 2025](#)
- [Guide to the Employment Standards Act](#)

- [Workplace Safety and Insurance Board](#)

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Ontario to Introduce Legislation to Strengthen School Board Oversight

New measures would also help protect children and youth and promote student success

May 29, 2025

[Education](#)

[Children, Community and Social Services](#)

[Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security](#)

TORONTO —Today, Ontario will introduce the *Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025*, that, if passed, would strengthen government oversight, accountability and transparency in public school boards, postsecondary education and children's aid societies. The changes would also increase the safety, well-being and academic and personal achievement of children and youth.

To further [address several cases](#) of financial mismanagement by school boards, the proposed enhanced measures would increase government's oversight of school board finances, governance and program performance, including giving the Minister of Education the ability to respond quickly to matters of public interest.

"Parents deserve confidence that school boards are making decisions in the best interests of their children's education," said Paul Calandra, Minister of Education. "That's why we are strengthening accountability and transparency across Ontario's education system — to ensure that every dollar invested is preparing students with practical skills for good-paying, stable careers. These new measures would build on our previous actions to improve governance, enforce compliance and focus school boards on what matters most: student success. We are making it clear that school boards must put students first — not politics, not bureaucracy — and that we will act decisively when they fall short of that responsibility."

Other key accountability and oversight measures being proposed include:

- Setting out requirements for board expense policies and requiring school boards to post key individuals' expenses on their public-facing website
- Increasing the accountability of children's aid societies by taking measures to strengthen financial oversight, board governance and transparency

- Improving fee transparency for postsecondary students
- Requiring all publicly assisted colleges and universities to have clearly outlined, merit-based admissions policies

Additional proposed changes would promote student success and enhance student, child and youth safety by:

- Incentivizing student volunteerism by introducing a new Minister's Certificate of Recognition for Community Involvement for students who earn 50 or more community involvement hours
- Requiring school boards to implement School Resource Officer (SRO) programs where they are offered by local police services starting in the next school year
- Expanding the Ombudsman's investigative authority to include 18- to 22-year-olds who are eligible for, or are in the Ready, Set, Go program and requiring children's aid societies to notify these youth about the Ombudsman's services regularly
- Consulting on requiring children's aid societies and out-of-home care licensees to physically post age-appropriate information about children and youth rights and internal complaints processes in areas of a residence that are accessible to them

The measures contained in this legislation would build on the government's ongoing work to ensure students, children and youth interact with accountable and transparent public systems and benefit from the supports they need to reach ultimate achievement academically and personally.

Quick Facts

- In 2025-26, Ontario is investing \$30.3 billion in Core Education Funding to focus key resources where they matter most: on student success.
 - In 2024, Ontario introduced the [Supporting Children's Futures Act, 2024](#), to improve the safety, well-being and privacy of children and youth receiving services under the [Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017](#), by modernizing and standardizing important safeguards throughout the child and youth services sector.
 - This legislation builds on the [Strengthening Accountability and Student Supports Act, 2024](#), and associated directives which required postsecondary institutions to publish educational costs (such as textbooks and other learning materials) and establish anti-hate and mental health policies.
-

Quotes

"The changes we are proposing would strengthen oversight and accountability for children's aid societies. This is part of our ongoing efforts to improve the lives of children and youth who are involved with the child welfare system. It is another important step towards ensuring all children and youth in Ontario are aware of their rights, and receive the care, support, and protection they deserve."

- Michael Parsa
Minister of Children, Community and Social Services

"When students choose Ontario's world-class colleges and universities to pursue their postsecondary education, they deserve to know where their fees are going, what criteria they need for admission, and how their research will be protected. Through the Supporting Children and Students Act, our government would be ensuring that colleges and universities are taking responsible measures to protect our students as they prepare for successful careers that will strengthen Ontario's economy for decades to come."

- Nolan Quinn
Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security

"Ensuring the safety and well-being of students across Ontario is a top priority. By requiring school boards to implement School Resource Officer (SRO) programs where offered by local police services, we would be taking a significant step toward protecting Ontario schools and students. This initiative would foster stronger relationships between students, educators and law enforcement, creating secure learning environments and promoting trust between communities."

- Michael Kerzner
Solicitor General

"The School Resource Officer (SRO) program plays a crucial role in fostering trust, safety and mentorship within our schools. Having experienced the positive influence of an SRO in my own life, I understand how impactful these programs can be for young people. My SRO inspired me to pursue a career in law enforcement, and later, I had the honour of serving as an SRO myself. The Ontario government's decision to support and mandate SRO programs where local police services offer them is a significant step towards building stronger, safer communities. The Police Association of Ontario fully endorses this initiative and looks forward to witnessing its positive effects in schools across the province."

- Mark Baxter

President, Police Association of Ontario

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Strengthening Governance, Accountability and Transparency in School Boards, Postsecondary Institutions and Children's Aid Societies](#)
- [Ontario Appoints Supervisor for the Thames Valley District School Board](#)
- [Ontario Increasing School Board Accountability to Protect Students, Families and Taxpayer Funds](#)
- [Ontario Taking Action to Protect Students, Families and Taxpayer Funds](#)
- [Creating safe and accepting schools](#)
- [Improving the child welfare system](#)
- [Indigenous control over child and family services](#)
- [Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017](#)
- [Ready, Set, Go program](#)
- [Ontario Investing Nearly \\$1.3 Billion to Stabilize Colleges and Universities](#)

Related Topics

Education and Training

Learn about Ontario's early years, education and training systems. Includes information on child care, elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities, skills training and financial aid. [Learn more](#)

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Ontario Signs Agreement to Unlock Free Trade with Saskatchewan

Agreement will grow both provincial economies by removing internal trade barriers

June 01, 2025

[Office of the Premier](#)

[Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade](#)

[Intergovernmental Affairs](#)

SASKATOON — Ahead of the First Ministers' Meeting in Saskatoon, Premier Doug Ford was joined by Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will help grow both provincial economies by making them more competitive and advancing efforts to knock down barriers to trade across Canada.

"With President Trump taking direct aim at Canada's economy, we need to do everything we can to protect Ontario and Canadian workers by super-charging our own internal trade opportunities," said Premier Ford. "With both of us coming together today, we're helping Canada unlock up to \$200 billion in gains for our economy and we're showing everyone how all of us premiers are standing up for Canada like never before. Together, we're building a more competitive, more resilient and more self-reliant economy."

To further break down trade barriers, the Ontario government recently introduced the [Protect Ontario Through Free Trade Within Canada Act](#) to boost opportunities for more cross-Canada commerce and help Ontario and Canada withstand the impact of U.S. tariffs and any other challenges that may come.

With this new legislation and a growing number of signed MOUs, Ontario is leading the country in expanding the trade of goods and services across Canadian jurisdictions, cutting unnecessary red tape holding back Canadian businesses and opening new pathways for the movement of qualified, in-demand workers throughout the country. Ontario was the first and so far only province or territory in Canada to eliminate all party-specific exceptions under the [Canadian Free Trade Agreement](#).

“Now is the time to take strong action to strengthen trade across Canada,” said Premier Moe. “Our province remains committed to removing restrictive barriers that limit the flow of trade. Today’s MOU between Saskatchewan and Ontario is just one of the ways we are unlocking the infinite potential that exists within our industries from coast to coast.”

Two-way trade in goods and services between Ontario and other provinces and territories was worth over \$326 billion in 2023. The Ontario government will continue to work with its federal, provincial and territorial partners through the Canadian Free Trade Agreement and other trade-enhancing initiatives to advance interprovincial trade across Canada.

Quick Facts

- The total value of annual interprovincial trade between Ontario and Saskatchewan for 2021 (the most recent year for which figures are available) was \$15 billion.
- In 2023, Ontario exported \$183.9 billion of goods and services to other provinces and territories and imported \$142.7 billion, resulting in two-way trade of \$326.6 billion and a trade surplus of \$41.2 billion.
- Ontario is launching the new \$50 million [Ontario Together Trade Fund](#) to assist local businesses in taking advantage of new interprovincial trade opportunities.
- Thirty-five per cent of Canada’s overall trade takes place within its own borders.

Quotes

"At a time of unprecedented global economic uncertainty, it has never been more important for provinces and territories to tear down the internal trade barriers that are holding our economy back. Today’s agreement between Ontario and Saskatchewan moves Canada one step closer to ensuring true free trade and labour mobility exists within our own borders."

- Vic Fedeli

Ontario Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

Additional Resources

- [Memorandum of Understanding between Ontario and Nova Scotia](#)
- [Memorandum of Understanding between Ontario and New Brunswick](#)
- [Memorandum of Understanding between Ontario and Manitoba](#)
- [Memorandum of Understanding between Ontario and Saskatchewan](#)

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Ontario Signs Agreements to Unlock Free Trade with Alberta and Prince Edward Island

Agreements now in place with six provinces will grow Ontario's economy by removing internal trade barriers

June 01, 2025

[Office of the Premier](#)

[Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade](#)

[Intergovernmental Affairs](#)

SASKATOON — Premier Doug Ford was joined by Alberta Premier Danielle Smith and Prince Edward Island Premier Rob Lantz to sign Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) that will help grow all three provincial economies by advancing efforts to knock down barriers to trade across Canada.

“With President Trump threatening our economy, there’s never been a more important time to boost internal trade and cooperation between provinces,” said Premier Ford. “By signing these agreements and working together, we’re helping Canada unlock up to \$200 billion in economic potential and standing shoulder to shoulder to protect the future of Canadian workers across the country, not just in Ontario.”

Through these signings, premiers are demonstrating leadership by recognizing the importance of eliminating barriers to free trade between provinces and territories. To further break down trade barriers, the Ontario government recently introduced the [Protect Ontario Through Free Trade Within Canada Act](#) to boost opportunities for more cross-Canada commerce, help Ontario and Canada withstand the impact of U.S. tariffs and any other challenges that may come.

With this new legislation and a growing number of signed memorandums, Ontario is leading the country in expanding the trade of goods and services across Canadian jurisdictions, cutting unnecessary red tape holding back Canadian businesses and opening new pathways for the movement of qualified, in-demand workers throughout the country. Ontario was the first and so far only province or territory in Canada to eliminate all party-specific exceptions under the [Canadian Free Trade Agreement](#).

“Together, Alberta and Ontario are taking a big step toward a more open, competitive and united economy,” said Premier Smith. “This agreement is about getting results, making it easier for people to work, do business and grow across provincial lines. It’s time to stop letting outdated rules hold us back and show Canadians what real economic leadership looks like.”

“Prince Edward Island may be Canada’s smallest province, but we’re punching well above our weight,” said Premier Lantz. “With our reciprocal *Interprovincial Trade and Mobility Act*, we’re not just keeping pace — we’re setting the standard and securing our future. Prince Edward Island has unified this nation before and by eliminating unnecessary trade barriers and streamlining labour mobility, we’re fostering a more unified and competitive national economy. Our collaboration with Ontario underscores our commitment to one Canadian economy. Together, we’re proving that when provinces work in concert, the entire nation thrives.”

Two-way trade in goods and services between Ontario and other provinces and territories was worth over \$326 billion in 2023. The Ontario government will continue to work with its federal, provincial and territorial partners through the Canadian Free Trade Agreement and other trade-enhancing initiatives to advance interprovincial trade across Canada.

Quick Facts

- The total value of annual interprovincial trade between Ontario and today’s MOU signatories for 2021 (the most recent year for which figures are available) was \$62.4 billion (Alberta) and \$1.8 billion (Prince Edward Island).
 - In 2023, Ontario exported \$183.9 billion of goods and services to other provinces and territories and imported \$142.7 billion, resulting in two-way trade of \$326.6 billion and a trade surplus of \$41.2 billion.
 - Ontario is launching the new \$50 million [Ontario Together Trade Fund](#) to assist local businesses in taking advantage of new interprovincial trade opportunities.
 - Thirty-five per cent of Canada’s overall trade takes place within its own borders.
-

Quotes

"At a time of unprecedented global economic uncertainty, it has never been more important for provinces and territories to tear down the internal trade barriers that are holding our economy back. Today's agreements between Ontario, Alberta and Prince Edward Island move Canada one step closer to ensuring true free trade and labour mobility exists within our own borders."

- Vic Fedeli

Ontario Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

Additional Resources

- [Memorandum of Understanding between Ontario and Nova Scotia](#)
- [Memorandum of Understanding between Ontario and New Brunswick](#)
- [Memorandum of Understanding between Ontario and Manitoba](#)
- [Memorandum of Understanding between Ontario and Saskatchewan](#)
- [Memorandum of Understanding between Ontario and Alberta](#)
- [Memorandum of Understanding between Ontario and Prince Edward Island](#)

Related Topics

Business and Economy

Information about Ontario's economy and how to do business here. Includes economic development opportunities, research funding, tax credits for business and the Ontario Budget. [Learn more](#)

Government

Learn about the government services available to you and how government works. [Learn more](#)

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Protecting the Good Things that Grow in Ontario

Support local communities by buying locally grown and made food

June 02, 2025

[Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness](#)

TORONTO — Protecting Ontario's local agriculture and food industry is essential to ensuring a strong, self-sufficient food supply chain. This Local Food Week, from June 2-8, 2025, the Ontario government recognizes all of the farmers, food processors, distributors, retailers and restaurateurs that Ontario families depend upon. Now more than ever it is important to buy locally grown and made food in order to help protect the 871,000 jobs and nearly \$51 billion that the agriculture and food sector contributes to the province.

"Across the province, we have more than 48,000 farms and 5,200 food processors and food manufacturers working 365 days a year growing, harvesting and making delicious food right here at home," said Trevor Jones, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness. "By choosing to purchase what is grown and made in Ontario, consumers are supporting our farmers and communities, strengthening the economy and protecting our local food supply chain."

Ontario's [Local Food Report](#) highlights businesses that are strengthening Ontario's local food supply chain and supporting our economy. This year's report features a variety of local food success stories, including:

- A second-generation customized deli and frozen pizza company built on quality and family tradition.
- The 2025 winner of Farmers' Markets Ontario's Market of Year Award.
- One of the oldest cheese cooperatives in Canada.

In addition to these and other great examples, the Local Food Report also features the Foodland Ontario Retailer Awards program. Each year, grocery stores across the province submit photos of creative and innovative displays promoting fresh, locally grown, in-season fruits and vegetables. These displays educate and encourage Ontario consumers to identify and purchase locally grown produce. There are 60 grocery stores receiving 64 awards, and this year, Minister Jones kicked off the award presentations at Metro #73 in Mississauga.

"Supporting Canadian products and buying local is not a new concept for Metro. In the current context, we are putting a greater emphasis on local and Canadian products and optimising their visibility in all our Metro stores," said Joe Fusco, Senior Vice President, Metro. "We're proud to support Local Food Week and celebrate the incredible work of Ontario's farmers and producers. Our partnership with Foodland Ontario reflects our commitment to offering fresh, locally grown produce to our customers. We're especially proud of our team at Metro #73 and produce manager John Leonardi, whose award-winning displays help bring the best of Ontario produce to life in our stores."

Throughout the month of June, winning grocery stores will be receiving plaques to commemorate their contribution to boosting local food literacy and consumption of locally grown and made food across the province.

This week, and every week, the Province encourages Ontarians to support local farmers and businesses by purchasing foods with the Foodland Ontario logo, or, where possible, buying directly from farmers either on-farm or at their local farmers' market.

Quick Facts

- Ontario recognizes Local Food Week annually, beginning the first Monday in June.
- Customers know to look for the Foodland Ontario logo when shopping for groceries as a trusted source for finding Ontario-grown and made food in grocery stores, [farmers' markets](#) and [on-farm markets](#), and while ordering online and [dining out](#).
- The government is protecting our local food supply chain by focusing on increasing the consumption and production of local food in Ontario. The [Grow Ontario Strategy](#) outlines the goals and steps the government is taking to build a stronger, more resilient food supply chain.
- To know what fruits and vegetables grow in Ontario and when they are at the peak of freshness, visit [Foodland Ontario's availability guide](#) and check out their [recipes](#).
- During Local Food Week, visit [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [X](#) and [Instagram](#) to see more ways the government is working with commodity organizations, farmers and businesses to protect our province.

Additional Resources

[Foodland Ontario](#)

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Ontario Securing Affordable Energy for Future Generations

New legislation will drive investment, enable more 'Buy Canadian' and create jobs

June 03, 2025

[Energy and Mines](#)

TORONTO – The Ontario government is taking decisive action to build a more competitive, resilient and self-reliant economy by introducing the *Protect Ontario by Securing Affordable Energy for Generations Act, 2025*. If passed, this legislation will support major growth in the province's energy system to meet rising demand, while keeping energy affordable, secure, reliable and clean for generations to come.

"As global competition intensifies, energy demand surges, and affordability becomes more important than ever, Ontario isn't standing still – we're stepping up," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines. "While we face an economic war with President Trump, our government is enabling utilities to 'Buy Canadian', in addition to making economic growth and job creation a centre of our energy plan."

Electricity demand is expected to rise 75 per cent over the next 25 years - the equivalent of adding four and a half cities the size of Toronto to the grid. In addition to investing record amounts to expand new energy capacity for the long-term, the government is meeting this demand by creating new tools to allow Ontario to plan smarter, act faster and deliver the right energy infrastructure to keep pace with economic growth, an increasing population and electrification.

One of the most significant drivers of long-term electricity demand growth are data centres. These facilities support artificial intelligence, cloud computing and digital services, which the government is embracing as a strategic opportunity to drive investment, innovation, and job creation, particularly in northern and rural communities where new investments could anchor high tech ecosystems. With dozens of new data centre projects looking to connect to the grid – representing up to 6,500 megawatts of demand, the equivalent of nearly 30 per cent of peak demand for the province – Ontario is taking steps to manage connections in a way that supports long-term economic and energy system goals.

Current legislation requires utilities to connect all data centres indiscriminately, regardless of economic impact or energy intensity. As electricity demand grows into the 2040s, the government is creating an authority to prioritize projects that maximize benefit to the Ontario economy and workforce. This includes projects that create high-quality-jobs, strengthens Ontario's digital economy and support domestic data housing – ensuring Canadian data stays in Canada, protected from misuse and weaker foreign privacy regimes.

The *Protect Ontario by Securing Affordable Energy for Generations Act, 2025*, if passed, will:

- **Codify and add “economic growth” as a formal objective of Ontario’s energy agencies** - the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) and the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) – ensuring for the first time that agencies are required to actively support job creating investment into Ontario.
- **Support Ontario utilities to buy-Canadian and build a more secure energy system** by enabling them to fund investments necessary to implement new restrictions on hostile foreign participants in Ontario’s energy sector – protecting the province from risks of malware, manipulation, tampering and surveillance.
- **Support Ontario’s growing hydrogen economy** by expanding the IESO’s mandate to include hydrogen development – enabling them to fund innovative new projects that will help build a more diverse energy system, including through the [Hydrogen Innovation Fund](#).
- **Expand the eligibility of the [Future Clean Electricity Fund \(FCEF\)](#) to include nuclear generation and transmission infrastructure**, which will be necessary to meet the province’s growing electricity demand.

“Industries and job creators across Ontario are counting on affordable, stable, reliable power to plan for business growth, and to create new jobs,” said Sam Oosterhoff, Associate Minister of Energy Intensive Industries. “This legislation demonstrates the Government of Ontario’s commitment to energy-intensive industries and all power consumers, assuring them of an integrated, all-of-the-above energy approach that prioritizes economic growth and affordability – for decades to come.”

The *Protect Ontario by Securing Affordable Energy for Generations Act* will support the implementation of Ontario’s first Integrated Energy Plan, set to be released later this month. Together, they provide a coordinated, long-term approach to ensure Ontario has the energy it needs to power homes, businesses, and industry without

relying on other jurisdictions. The plan will put affordability first, while supporting economic growth, creating jobs, and by making our economy the most competitive in the G7, with abundant, reliable, clean, and affordable energy supply.

Quick Facts

- [Ontario's Affordable Energy Future: The Pressing Case for More Power](#) committed to the introduction of Ontario's First Integrated Energy Plan, which will end the siloed approach to planning and bring together every part of Ontario's energy system – including electricity, natural gas, hydrogen, and other fuels – into a coordinated plan to power growth.
 - According to the IESO rising electricity demand is being driven by rapid increase in population, new manufacturing facilities, advanced technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) data centres, the electrification of industry, and the charging energy required for electric vehicles.
 - Demand from the data centre industry, which supports data-intensive applications including AI and cloud computing, is expected to represent 13 per cent of new electricity demand in Ontario by 2035.
 - Industrial electricity demand is set to increase by more than 35 per cent in just the next five years.
-

Quotes

"Protecting our economy is everyone's responsibility. As global trade uncertainty continues to hurt manufacturers, CME has called on all regulators to have an economic mandate. Today's legislation from the Government of Ontario reiterates this important principle while adding tools to protect and grow our grid with domestic materials, technology and labour."

- Dennis A. Darby
President and CEO, Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters

"Economic developers are on the front lines of building strong, competitive communities across Ontario. By formally recognizing economic growth as a key objective of Ontario's energy agencies, this legislation supports the work our members do every day to attract investment, support local businesses, and create jobs. EDCO welcomes this important step forward in aligning energy policy with economic opportunity."

- Stephanie Crilly
Executive Director, Economic Developers Council of Ontario (EDCO)

"Ontario businesses have big growth plans, and our energy infrastructure must match their ambitions. That's why the Ontario Chamber welcomes embedding economic growth into energy agency mandates, broadening eligibility for infrastructure funding, supporting diverse clean-energy sources, improving system security and benefitting Ontario suppliers. We look forward to seeing the bill and working together to achieve these goals."

- Daniel Tisch
President and CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce

"Prioritizing economic growth in energy planning and regulation is essential to supporting local hydro utilities as electrification continues to drive electricity demand. As a sector, we're focused on delivering timely, value-added solutions that help our customers strengthen their competitive edge. We are committed to continue working with the Ontario government to ensure utilities can accelerate critical grid investments—laying the foundation for a more prosperous Ontario for generations to come."

- Teresa Sarkesian
President & CEO, Electricity Distributors Association

"The Ontario Energy Association welcomes the government of Ontario's continued leadership in preparing Ontario's energy system to underpin economic growth and job creation. The proposed Protecting Ontario by Securing Affordable Energy for Generations Act, 2025 helpfully builds on the government's work by explicitly recognizing economic development objectives in agency mandates, and supporting infrastructure investments in generation, transmission, and hydrogen."

- Vince Brescia
President & CEO, Ontario Energy Association

Additional Resources

[Ontario's Affordable Energy Future: The Pressing Case for More Power](#)

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Council and Committee

Monthly Summary

May 2025

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council and Committee meetings held May 14 and May 28, 2025.

Please note that this summary does not constitute the official record of the meetings and approved minutes should be consulted for that purpose.

The full [Council and Committee packages](#) can be found online.

The [May 14, 2025](#) and [May 28, 2025](#) meetings are on YouTube.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

Warden Peter Emon attended the May 14 meeting virtually and was absent for the May 28 meeting. Acting Warden Jennifer Murphy presided over both meetings.

- She noted Warden Emon was invited by Premier Doug Ford to participate in a multi-minister meeting alongside members of the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus on May 13 in Toronto. The meetings included discussions with the Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs; Hon. David Piccinni, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development; Parliamentary Assistant Matt Rae, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Hon. Victor Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade.
- At the May 28 meeting, she acknowledged National Paramedic Services Week and National Public Works Week, which were observed from May 18 to 24. On behalf of council and residents she thanked the members of these departments for their service and commitment to our communities.
- She also announced the return of the [Silver Chain Challenge](#), a friendly competition between Renfrew and Lanark Counties which encourages everyone to get outside, stay active, and enjoy our beautiful communities by walking, running or cycling during the month of June. Let's lace up, ride out, and make every step and pedal count. Visit the Silver Chain Challenge website to get started. Let's bring the title home to Renfrew County!
- Councillor Dan Lynch represented the County at the Town of Petawawa's Kick Off to Accessibility Week, which is May 25-31. As part of the celebration, he was invited to paint a square, which will be part of a centrepiece that promotes Accessibility.
- On Sunday May 25, Councillor Lynch also brought greetings and congratulations from the County to Gerald Tracey in Bonnechere Valley, during the community celebration that highlighted the renaming of "Gerald Tracey Park".

Delegations

At the May 14 meeting, Council heard from the following interested parties:

- Ann Pohl, spokesperson for the Council of Canadians: Kitchissippi-Ottawa Valley spoke about the Climate Action postcards display at the County Administration Building to mark Earth Day. She also provided postcards from their communities to members of County Council.
- Sabine Mersmann, Co-chair of the Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team, provided an update on Primary Care Team expansion proposals, which were recently submitted on behalf of the West Champlain Family Health Team and the Petawawa Centennial Family Health Team. These proposals are meant to serve high-needs and underserved populations across Renfrew County and South Algonquin and attach people to regular primary care providers. These teams seek to attach almost 18,000 patients to primary care providers by March 2027.
- Chris Brennan, Enbridge Gas, provided an update on the 20-year Franchise Agreement, initially entered with Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. in April 2025, which was up for renewal.

At the May 28 meeting, Council heard from the following interested party:

- Three German Paramedics – Andreas Bauer, Chief of Education, Bavarian Red Cross Regensburg; Stefan Dums, Preceptor, BRK Kreisverband Cham, Germany and Kristina Voith, who spent the week with the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service were introduced to County Council by Health Committee Chair Michael Donohue. He noted this visit provided a unique opportunity to strengthen professional relationships and foster international cooperation in the field of paramedicine. It also allowed the Paramedics to learn from one another, deepening the understanding of various approaches to public safety and patient care.
- Jason St. Pierre and Lisa Severson provided an annual update from the [Eastern Ontario Regional Network](#), including the Cell Gap Project and highlights of the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan. In Renfrew County 47 new builds were planned with 27 of 47 new sites are in service, 25 upgrades were completed and nine co-locations are in the process of being completed.
- Nadia Prescott, [Ottawa West Four Rivers Ontario Health Team](#), made a presentation on the Primary Care Team expansion proposals recently submitted to address the needs in the communities of Arnprior and McNab/Braeside. The multi-organizational approach will be led by West Carleton Family Health Team with the support of the Arnprior & District Family Health Team among others. The goal is to attach 8,500 net new patients by March 2027, including 1,000 new patients for the Arnprior and District Family Health Team.
- Stefani Van Wijk (Chair) and Meghan James (Vice-Chair) of the [Ottawa Valley Tourist Association](#) Board of Directors provided an annual update on the state of tourism in the Ottawa Valley, the critical role played by the OVTA and how tourism is fuelling economic growth and community vitality in the region.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- County Council will send a letter to MPP Billy Denault, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke and the Honourable Vic Fideli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT), in support of the Small Business Centres Ontario's (SBC Ontario) recommendations and request for increased CORE funding towards salary wages for Enterprise Renfrew County and all Small Business Enterprise Centres across Ontario.

- County Council adopted a by-law to authorize Municipal Law Enforcement Services, Renfrew, Ontario to act as a By-law Enforcement Officer, on behalf of the County of Renfrew, on County of Renfrew Owned Forests. In recent years, issues within the Renfrew County Forests have been increasing in frequency and severity, including dumping, encroachment, fires and camping.
- A special meeting of the Development and Property Committee will be held on June 12, 2025 at 3 p.m. at the County of Renfrew Administration Building to host a public meeting to inform the public of the proposed Official Plan Amendment No. 47. The proposed Official Plan Amendment is to permit the County Council to provide grants and/or loans to support local Community Improvement Plans.
- The County of Renfrew is working with Esri Canada to do a full review of its location-based data to get ready for the new Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) system. This new system will help modernize how emergency services respond. Local municipalities play a big part in this work because they help create and update the data that emergency services rely on. For this project to be successful, strong teamwork and input is required from our municipal partners. Their local knowledge is key to making sure the data is correct and useful. To help move this project forward, a two-hour workshop is scheduled on June 5, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. An invitation was sent out to all local municipalities, including the City of Pembroke and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan.
- During the first quarter of 2025, the Economic Development Division received seven requests related to site searches for businesses looking to expand and/or move within or to Renfrew County. The Division is also supporting a number of municipal requests related to potential investment and expansion opportunities, providing guidance, research and expertise.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair

- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the acquisition of a piece of property with frontage on County Road 23 (Highland Road) in the Township of McNab/Braeside from Susan Patricia Clark. This land will be dedicated as part of the road allowance for County Road 23.
- County Council adopted a by-law to approve Corporate Policy PW-24, Community Safety Zones along County Roads. Community Safety Zones can be used near community centres, elementary or secondary schools, high pedestrian traffic locations (defined as a location experiencing an average of 100 pedestrians per hour or more for any eight hours of the day), seniors' centres and residences, daycare centres, playgrounds, parks and hospitals.
- County Council adopted a new by-law that includes the execution of a Purchase and Sale Agreement and a Lease Agreement with the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority for the K & P Recreational Trail, from the County of Renfrew border northward approximately 6.7km. It is estimated that the County of Renfrew's portion of costs associated with clearing title on the properties to be purchased will be approximately \$67,000.
- The Warden and Chief Administrative Officer executed the Housing-Enabling Core Services (HECS) - Transfer Payment Agreement for the approved reconstruction of a roundabout at the intersection of Petawawa Blvd., Doran St., Mohns Ave. and Hilda St. This is in follow-up to the January 28, 2025, announcement that the Province of Ontario would provide \$2.8 million in funding support for a significant infrastructure improvement at the intersection of County Roads 26/51 (Doran Road/Petawawa Boulevard) in the Town of Petawawa. This project will see the construction of a roundabout designed to enhance traffic flow, improve safety, and support the growing needs of the community.

- County Council approved contracts/tenders as submitted:
 - For the purchase of two tandem truck plow and spreader units from Premier Truck Group of London, London, Ontario, in the amount of \$957,052, plus applicable taxes.
 - For the rehabilitation of County Road 71 (Matawatchan Road), from Civic Address 4882 to County Road 65 (Centennial Lake Road), Township of Greater Madawaska, as submitted by Bonnechere Excavating Incorporated, Renfrew, Ontario, in the amount of \$693,494.40, plus applicable taxes.
 - For the fabrication, supply, relocation, and rehabilitation of Access Control Gates in various locations on County Recreational Trails as submitted by G.P. Splinter Forest Products Limited, Pembroke, Ontario in the amount of \$148,855.96, plus applicable taxes.
 - For the supply, delivery, and installation of Steel Beam Guiderail on County Road 71 (Matawatchan Road), approximately 8.41km east of Highway 41, Township of Greater Madawaska, as submitted by Borall Fence and Guiderail Contractors Limited, Waubaushene, Ontario, in the amount of \$215,231.25, plus applicable taxes.
 - For the rehabilitation of County Road 3 (Usborne Street), from County Road 1 (River Road) to the urban limit of Braeside, a distance of approximately 0.34km, Township of McNab/Braeside as submitted by Thomas Cavanagh Construction Ltd., Ashton, Ontario, in the amount of \$528,000, plus applicable taxes.
 - For Contract Administration and Construction Inspection Services for the reconstruction of County Structure C201 (Broomes Creek Culvert) and Dam as submitted by J.L. Richards & Associates Ltd. in the amount of \$286,472.48, plus applicable taxes.
 - For the rehabilitation of County Road 2 (Daniel Street), from County Road 1 (Madawaska Street) to Staye Court Drive, a distance of approximately 1.9km, Town of Arnprior, awarded to R.W. Tomlinson Ltd., Ottawa, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,597,200, plus applicable taxes (Town of Arnprior will cover \$544,203.23, plus applicable taxes.)
 - For the rehabilitation of County Road 36 (TV Tower Road), from County Road 35 (Jean Avenue) to County Road 42 (Forest Lea Road), and County Road 51 (Pembroke Street West), from County Road 42 (Forest Lea Road) to the City of Pembroke Limits, a distance of approximately 3.52km, Township of Laurentian Valley awarded to McCrea Excavating Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,810,000.
 - For the purchase of a Boom Mower from Colvoy Enterprises 2012 Ltd., Courtland, Ontario, in the amount of \$49,998, plus applicable taxes.

At the May 28 the Operations Committee recommended the following:

- County Council adopt a revised by-law to Regulate the Operation of Off-Road Vehicles on County of Renfrew Roads. The County of Renfrew has received a request from the Town of Petawawa to update the restrictions for off-road vehicles along County Roads within the Town. The effect of the amendment would permit Off-Road Vehicles on the following sections of County Roads in the Town of Petawawa: County Road 16 (Victoria Street), between Laurentian Drive and Petawawa Boulevard; County Road 25 (Laurentian Drive), between Victoria Street and Petawawa Boulevard; County Road 26 (Doran Road), between Petawawa Boulevard and Highway 17; County Road 37 (Murphy Road), between Petawawa Boulevard and Highway 17; County Road 51 (Petawawa Boulevard), between B-Line Road and civic address 2991 Petawawa Boulevard. In addition, the Town of Petawawa has requested crossings of CR51 (Petawawa Boulevard) be allowed at the Fred/Norman Street and Victoria Street/Portage Road intersections, which were also recommended.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- County Council supported the resolution passed by the Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington Social Services Committee in April requesting an increase to Ontario Works rates to match the ODSP rate increases that have already been made and be indexed to inflation and a commitment to ongoing cost of living increases above and beyond the rate of inflation to make up for the years they were frozen. A copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, and all Ontario Municipalities.

Corporate Services Committee

Presented by: David Mayville, Vice-Chair

- County Council directed staff to submit delegation request(s) at the upcoming Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference that are consistent with the 2023-2026 County of Renfrew Strategic Plan and other departmental strategic plan(s), that address current initiatives that require further advocacy and/or address funding shortfall(s).

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- County Council directed staff to proceed with hiring PRO-TEC 5 Incorporated, Pembroke, Ontario, as a security agency at Bonnechere Manor when required for the newly implemented security program.
- County Council authorized the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer to execute a Purchased Service Agreement with Mackay Manor, Renfrew, Ontario, for the period of June 1, 2025 until March 31, 2027. The County of Renfrew Paramedic Service is partnering with Mackay Manor following the successful approval of a joint application to the Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP). This funding will support the delivery of targeted paramedic-led outreach services. These services will focus on individuals experiencing homelessness, mental health challenges, and/or substance use concerns. This initiative aims to improve access to care for vulnerable populations by providing timely, community-based interventions. It also reflects the shared commitment of both organizations to integrated person-centered service delivery.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk

613-735-7288

MEDIA RELATIONS

9 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE
PEMBROKE, ON, CANADA
K8A 6W5
(613) 735-7288
www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca



Renfrew County of
Ontario . Canada
Experience Our History, Share Our Future!

LANARK
COUNTY

**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

RELEASE DATE:

May 29, 2025

Get ready to move: The Silver Chain Challenge returns this June

Lace up your sneakers and pump up your bike tires: the annual Silver Chain Challenge is back this June 2025! This exciting month-long event invites participants from Renfrew County and Lanark County to demonstrate their commitment to healthy living and active transportation, all while enjoying the scenic beauty of eastern Ontario.

The Silver Chain Challenge is not just a competition; it's a celebration of health, community, and the great outdoors. Participants are encouraged to walk or cycle as often as they can throughout the month of June. Following last year's photo contest, we are returning to the roots of the Silver Chain Challenge and participants will be able to [log their kilometres](#) travelled and see them tracked in real time to show who is leading this friendly competition. The County with the most kilometres by the end of the month will be declared the winner, earning the bragging rights of being the most active and engaged community.

Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon is hoping residents will take advantage of this challenge by increasing activity levels and exploring new areas of the County.

"You don't have to worry about walking the farthest, running the fastest or tackling the biggest hill while cycling; during the month June just head out in your community with friends or family and log those kilometres," Warden Emon said. "Your participation helps Renfrew County's chance of winning and you win as you enjoy one of our many trails or different parts of our community."

Lanark County Warden Toby Randell is also looking forward to the friendly competition as his residents embrace the Challenge.

"We are thrilled to launch the 2025 Silver Chain Challenge and invite all residents and visitors of Lanark County to join us. This challenge not only promotes physical activity and healthy living but also strengthens our community spirit," he said.

Participants are also encouraged to share their adventure snapshots on social media using the hashtags #RenfrewCounty or #LanarkCounty (depending on your location), and #SilverChainChallenge. The challenge is open to everyone – families, friends, solo adventurers, and visitors. Whether you're a seasoned cyclist or just enjoy leisurely strolls, every step, pedal, and photo counts.

Mark your calendars, grab your gear, and get ready to explore the trails, communities, and roadways of Renfrew and Lanark Counties this June. Let's see which county can claim the title of being the most active in 2025!

For more information on how to participate in the Silver Chain Challenge, please visit <https://bit.ly/SilverChainChallenge>.

– 30 –

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tina Peplinskie Media Relations Coordinator

613-735-7288



JOIN THE SILVER CHAIN CHALLENGE THIS JUNE



Log your
kilometres
here



Renfrew County of
Ontario . Canada

Experience Our History, Share Our Future!

**Share your
active
lifestyle and
help Renfrew
County win!**

The Silver Chain Challenge is a friendly competition between Renfrew and Lanark Counties designed to promote active lifestyles and sustainable transportation. Track your kilometres as you explore Renfrew County on foot or two wheels.

For more information:

<https://bit.ly/SilverChainChallenge>

Silver Chain
CHALLENGE

MEDIA RELATIONS

9 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE
PEMBROKE, ON, CANADA
K8A 6W5
(613) 735-7288
www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca



**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

RELEASE DATE:

June 2, 2025

Renfrew County Mesa HART Hub invests in local leadership to advance collaborative care

Mesa is a collaborative and compassionate approach to care – a made-in-Renfrew-County response to the complex intersections of affordable housing, homelessness, mental health, substance use, and addiction. Informed by community needs and frontline experience and built upon Mesa principles, community partners were successful in the application for a Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub, a regional initiative funded by the Province of Ontario.

In January 2025, the Renfrew County Mesa HART Hub was approved for a three-year, \$6.3 million investment from the Government of Ontario to support coordinated services for individuals experiencing homelessness, mental health challenges, and substance use issues. With early development now underway, the HART Hub is pleased to announce the hiring of two key leadership roles.

To support this bold and collaborative initiative, Mesa partners are investing in local talent and proven leadership.

Molly Fulton will assume the role of HART Hub Lead, on a three-year secondment from her position as Manager of Community Mental Health at Pembroke Regional Hospital. She brings deep expertise and a strong commitment to local mental health systems.

The Renfrew County Mesa HART hub Lead is responsible for the overall operation, strategic direction, and management of the Renfrew County Mesa HART Hub. This position serves as a central point for coordinating health, addiction, and mental health resources in collaboration with local stakeholders and community partners. The Lead will oversee the hub's multidisciplinary team, ensuring efficient service delivery, fostering collaboration, and driving innovative approaches to meet community needs.

"We are strengthening our collaborative approach to compassionate care by building on what we know, learning from our work together, and investing in local expertise," said Sabine Mersmann, President & CEO, Pembroke Regional Hospital, a key partner in the HART Hub. "Establishing the HART Hub Lead position demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that those in need receive timely, coordinated care with the best opportunity for success."

We are also proud to welcome Tara Edeh of the Ontario Addiction Treatment Centre in Pembroke as HART Hub Site Manager, a skilled frontline leadership position that will support the coordination of accessible, client-centered pathways to care, ensuring individuals receive the right services at the right time—and have a safe place to call home.

The HART Hub Site Manager is responsible for the day-to-day management and coordination of services at HART Hub locations within Renfrew County, and plays a key role in operational execution, performance monitoring, and maintaining a safe, client-centered environment aligned with the HART Hub’s mission.

“Our teams are on the front lines of a new, compassionate model of care. The Mesa HART Hub brings us together to deliver more coordinated, wraparound supports that lead to safer, healthier communities for all,” said Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon.

These two positions mark a significant step forward in realizing the vision of the Mesa HART Hub: a compassionate, local system that meets people where they are – 24/7 – and walks with them toward recovery, housing stability, and wellbeing.

Services offered at the Mesa HART Hub will include:

- 24/7 access to immediate supports
- Primary care and health outreach
- Mental health and addiction services
- Peer support and recovery navigation
- Supportive housing
- Indigenous client care coordination
- Life skills and employment counselling

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Craig Kelley	Chief Administrative Officer	613-735-7288
Tina Peplinskie	Media Relations Coordinator	613-735-7288



Medical Officer of Health Report to the Board

Tuesday, May 27th, 2025

HEALTH PROTECTION

Infectious Diseases

Measles:

As of May 21st, a total of 2 confirmed cases of measles have been reported in Renfrew County and District (RCD). Both cases are linked to the large multijurisdictional outbreak centered in Southwestern Ontario.

In our response to mitigate the spread of measles, the Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) activated its Emergency Control Group and established a multidisciplinary Measles Response Team to meet increased operational demands.

The Measles Response Team has been:

- Responding to public inquiries via a dedicated intake line
- Conducting case and contact investigations
- Administering vaccinations through community clinics and door-to-door in the most at-risk areas
- Providing post-exposure prophylaxis to measles contacts as necessary
- Ensuring isolation and quarantine are adhered to when required
- Testing symptomatic individuals for measles

Throughout the response thus far, the team has followed 38 measles contacts and helped the most affected community increase their 1-2 dose measles immunization rate from 50% to 86%. This collaborative work is ongoing.

In April, RCDHU identified public measles exposure sites within Renfrew County. The public was advised to contact RCDHU if they were potentially exposed and either unvaccinated or experiencing symptoms. Interviews were completed with CBC and CTV to share details about the potential exposure in Renfrew County and about measles more generally. No additional suspect or confirmed cases resulted from this exposure – demonstrating how our relatively high local vaccination rates provide a significant measure of protection.

Both confirmed local measles cases are now resolved and can no longer spread infection. Thanks to a strong and coordinated response, the local spread of measles has been effectively contained at this time.

RCDHU continues to monitor the measles activity in Ontario. There have been 1 622 total measles cases linked to the multijurisdictional outbreak across Ontario from October 18th, 2024 to May 13th, 2025. The majority (76.3%) of these cases have been among infants, children, and adolescents—95.5% of whom were unvaccinated.

In total, Ontario has reported 1 646 measles cases so far in 2025. Of these, only 61 cases were not linked to the outbreak:

- 17 had a history of travel (measles acquired outside Canada)
- 1 was linked to a visitor to Ontario
- 43 cases remain without a known source of exposure

Respiratory Infections:

As of May 21st, local COVID-19, influenza, and RSV test positivity levels remain low. Hospital bed occupancy due to respiratory infections and respiratory outbreaks both remain at moderate levels. The proportion of local emergency department visits related to respiratory infections is still high at 10%, but has been trending down slowly since the beginning of the year.

Across the province, hospitalizations related to COVID-19 are at the lowest level since the summer of 2020. COVID-19 deaths in recent weeks are the lowest observed since the pandemic began.

Immunization

Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA):

On March 26th, 2025, the school suspension order became effective for 119 students born in 2007 and 2017. Staff have worked closely with schools, families, and healthcare providers to provide support with resources needed for students to meet the ISPA immunization requirements and return to school.

Over the course of the 20-day suspension period, 114 students (95.8%) who were suspended updated their requirements under ISPA and were able to return to school as soon as this was confirmed.

Grade 7 Program:

The second round of Grade 7 school-based immunization clinics for Hepatitis B (HB), Meningococcal, and Human Papilloma Virus started on April 2nd, 2025 and will continue until early June. Approximately 40 school-based clinics will be hosted across RCD. Students may also choose to be vaccinated through their health care provider, or by booking an appointment at an RCDHU routine immunization clinic. As of May 8th, 2025, 22 school-based clinics have been completed.

COVID-19 Vaccine:

The Ministry of Health announced that the Ontario Spring COVID-19 vaccine campaign

is running from April to June 2025. An additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for previously vaccinated individuals who have completed their primary series and are at increased risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection including:

- Adults 65 years of age and older
- Adult residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings for seniors
- Individuals 6 months of age and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised
- Individuals 55 years and older who identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Metis, and their non-Indigenous household members who are 55 years and older

As of May 9th, 2025, 4 mobile services clinics have been completed at retirement homes in RCD and additional clinics are scheduled over the following 4 weeks.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Staff are participating in Freshet meetings to support ongoing preparedness for spring flooding. Municipalities along the Ottawa River from Pembroke to Arnprior have been affected by high water levels. The Ministry of Natural Resources issued a Flood Watch for the MNR Pembroke district, which expired on May 22nd. RCDHU has shared watershed statements through social media, as well as weather events that may impact flooding. Additionally, messaging about flood preparedness continues to be shared through social media.

A five-year commemoration was held for COVID-19 to recognize the dedication, resilience, and work done by staff over the course of the pandemic.

May 4th to 10th was Emergency Preparedness Week. Emergency Preparedness Week is a national awareness campaign that encourages individuals to take steps to protect themselves, their families, and their communities during emergencies. This year's theme was "Be Prepared. Know Your Risks." It served as a reminder for residents RCD to understand the local risks and take action to be ready in case of an emergency. Throughout the week, RCDHU shared social media posts to raise awareness and promote preparedness. These posts focused on understanding [potential risks in the region](#) and learning practical steps to stay safe.

Healthy Environments

Rabies Control:

RCDHU is once again promoting the [Yellow Ribbon campaign](#) for animal bite and rabies awareness in May. The campaign promotes the wearing of a yellow ribbon or collar or scarf around a dog's neck to let people know to approach with caution, thereby reducing the likelihood of unintended animal bites and unnecessary healthcare visits. Several veterinary clinics and pet stores across the health unit are promoting the campaign, offering free yellow ribbons and information cards. A media release has been issued to raise awareness.

Food Safety:

A large component of the healthy environments mandate is food premise inspections. Public health inspectors have completed the first round of inspections of high-risk establishments to protect the public from foodborne illness. High risk facilities are those that serve vulnerable populations and offer food that is prepared through multiple handling steps. Each high-risk facility must be routinely inspected at least once every 4 months. Inspections of moderate risk food establishments, such as fast-food restaurants, are being prioritized to have at least one inspection completed by the end of June, as advised under the Ontario Public Health Standards.

Vectorborne Disease:

Public health inspectors are actively monitoring ticks in RCD. Tick dragging is taking place in southern (Combermere, Renfrew), western (Wilno area), and northern (Chalk River) parts of RCD. The intention is to monitor for the movement of black-legged ticks that may carry tickborne diseases. Current confirmed risk areas are Arnprior, Calabogie, Cobden, and Eganville.

HEALTH PROMOTION

Renfrew County and District Drug Strategy

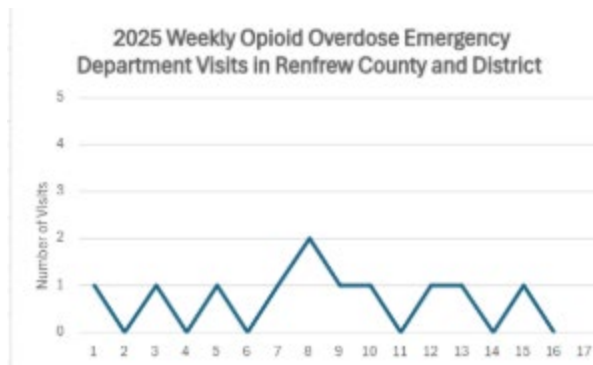
Following the April 10th release of the Renfrew County and District Drug Strategy (RCDDS), the promotion of the 25 priorities has been a major focus. Weekly social media messages have been posted to explain the context and priorities for each of the four pillars of prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and community safety.

A second communication campaign has also been running concurrently titled "Share Your Story," where Renfrew County and District residents have been engaged to tell their unique experience with recovering from a substance use disorder and the local support they received. Their courageous stories have garnered excellent online engagement and discussion that will hopefully inspire and empower others who face similar challenges to reach out for help.

Looking forward, the steering committee will receive progress updates from the pillar working groups on the indicators that are associated with each of the priorities. Additionally, the steering committee will review local data in consideration of which substances should be the focus of future phases of the strategy, as it expands beyond opioids.

RCCDS Substance Use Harm Indicators:

RCDHU staff continue to monitor key indicators associated with the harms of substance use. In 2025 so far, as of April 30th, there have been 11 emergency department visits related to opioid overdose and as of May 8th there have been 6 suspect drug toxicity deaths reported.



Harm Reduction

Outreach Team and SPRITE Testing:

The Outreach Team continues to bring RCDHU services to clients across RCD and forge new partnerships with community agencies. Since the beginning of 2025, the Outreach Team completed 41 visits to 13 different sites across Renfrew County & District. During those visits, 264 naloxone kits were distributed, and 181 new people were trained in their use. The Team had over 1000 interactions with clients throughout these visits. The Team continues to provide harm reduction and sexual health supplies, offer sexual health testing, and connect clients to other RCDHU services or community partners where needed.

SPRITE testing continues to be offered at Outreach Team events and at RCDHU's Pembroke office. As of April 30th, 137 tests for syphilis, HIV and hepatitis C have been completed under this program. Individuals that test positive have been successfully referred for follow-up and treatment. Most of the clients tested would be considered at high risk for acquiring sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections, and do not have a family doctor or the means to seek out testing on their own.

Indigenous Cultural Safety Training:

Two members from the Outreach Team attended “Wabano-Win: The Art of Seeing Clearly” Indigenous Cultural Safety Training at the Wabano Centre in Ottawa on March 21st. The training helped to foster a deeper understanding and respect for Indigenous perspectives on health and wellness. By incorporating the experience and information learned, the Outreach Team will provide an inclusive and supportive environment for Indigenous clients, reducing barriers to care and providing more effective, compassionate and culturally safe services.

County of Renfrew Licensed Childcare – Nutrition Support

In March, RCDHU provided a virtual educational seminar to licensed childcare providers through the County of Renfrew. The session focused on applying Canada's Food Guide (CFG) to meet the nutritional requirements outlined in the [Child Care and Early Years Act](#) and the [Child Care Centre Licensing Manual](#), using the [Child Care Menu Planning – Practical Guide](#) developed by the Ontario Dietitians in Public Health.

This guide was recently updated in 2024 to align with the latest version of CFG and continues to support childcare staff by translating the plate-based recommendations into practical, food-based guidelines for planning daily meals and snacks. To support the implementation of this updated resource, the seminar is now being offered biannually in the evenings to accommodate the schedules of childcare staff. This ongoing partnership with the County of Renfrew promotes professional development, supports healthy eating environments, and helps ensure continued compliance with provincial standards across early years settings.

Submitted by:

Dr. Jason Morgenstern, Medical Officer of Health
Renfrew County and District Health Unit

From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2025 10:00 AM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Watchfile - May 22, 2025



May 22, 2025

In This Issue:

- AMO releases *Engaging Youth in Local Democracy* report.
- AMO resources to support your classroom engagement.
- Connect Ontario: Broadband deployment municipal workshops.
- Health and Safety Water Stream fund.
- Nominations open for Medal of Distinction in Public Administration.
- AMO 2025 Conference - Ontario's premier municipal event.
- MMAH has opened its Request for Delegations for AMO 2025 Conference.
- Showcase your innovation - Submit your projects for the PJ Marshall Awards.
- Before you know it, it's August! AMO 2025 Conference trade show selling out fast!
- Teeny Tiny Summits 2025 - Don't miss these important community building events.
- Investing in an uncertain market - a municipal update.
- Risk webinar: The Litigation Process: A Municipal Perspective.
- Virtual Net-Zero Workshop: Space still available.
- RailCan proximity survey live until June 1.
- Humber Polytechnic Emergency Management Symposium - June 6, Toronto.
- Ontario Bike Summit.
- Net-Zero Communities Accelerator Program coming to Ontario.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

Improving the health of local democracies requires a renewed focus on engaging young people in our communities. Through AMO's Healthy Democracy Project and in partnership with Apathy is Boring, we've developed a new [Engaging Youth in Local Democracy](#) resource that will help you learn how to better engage youth in your communities with actionable strategies and tactics for elected officials, municipalities, and public sector organizations.

[AMO's Municipal Rep Day program](#) provides AMO's members with a set of resources they can use when visiting classrooms in their communities. Resources and guides for teachers and elected officials can support a productive and engaging visit with students and help ignite interest in local government with future voters and community leaders.

Provincial Matters

The Ministry of Energy and Mines strongly encourages municipal CAOs and permitting staff to join the Designated Broadband Projects workshops: [May 28: Running Line & Aerial Proposals](#) and [May 29: Asset Management Planning & Causal Costs](#).

Intake is open for Ontario's new Health and Safety Water Stream fund to help municipalities and First Nations build, repair and expand aging water infrastructure. [Apply now!](#)

Nominations are open for the Lieutenant Governor's Medal of Distinction in Public Administration, Ontario's highest honour for public service. [Nominate a colleague](#) from your municipality by June 27.

Education Opportunities

AMO's 2025 Annual Conference is back in Ottawa. In this unprecedented time, coming together with municipal, provincial and key sector partners is more important than ever. [Register for AMO 2025](#) and [book your accommodations today](#).

Delegation meetings with Cabinet Ministers are a key feature of the AMO Conference experience. These meetings are a unique opportunity for your council to engage with Ministers, Parliamentary Assistants and senior Ontario Government officials on local matters that impact your municipality. [Request your delegation meetings now](#). A reminder that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is your contact for the delegation meetings.

The Peter J. Marshall Municipal Innovation Award celebrates municipal governments in Ontario showcasing innovation in approaches to services, facilities, and infrastructure better for Ontarians. View full details [here](#).

Connect with over 3,000 of Ontario's municipal leaders representing Ontario's 444 municipalities and a \$68 billion sector at the AMO 2025 Conference in Ottawa this August. Click [here](#) to download the Exhibitor Package and [here](#) for the Sponsorship Package. Limited space available.

ROMA in partnership with the Minister of Rural Affairs, are happy to share the 2025 Teeny Tiny Summit line-up. These compelling events are designed with innovation in mind for Ontario's rural communities. Registration and information is available for the Summit in [Strathroy-Caradoc - June 18](#).

ONE Investment

In a time of market fluctuation and political uncertainty, municipal investors should have a thoughtful long-term investment strategy. [This timely update](#) from ONE Investment and PH&N Institutional will address these challenges/opportunities.

LAS

IPE and LAS are pleased to present Rose Muscolino, Partner at Weaver Simmons LLP, for a [comprehensive session on June 24](#), on the litigation process, from the initial notice of a claim to trial.

LAS' virtual net zero workshop is less than a month away. Mark June 18 in your calendar to discover how you can cut energy costs, boost savings and incorporate low carbon initiatives in your municipal buildings. [Register today](#).

Municipal Wire*

The Railway Association of Canada is asking municipalities to [complete a survey](#) on the modernization of the proximity guidelines of land close to railway operations. More information on the [RailCan website](#).

Join [Humber Polytechnic Broadcast-Broadband Convergence B²C Lab](#) in a one-day free informational symposium on June 6 to present emerging emergency communications technologies using the ATSC 3.0 broadcast communications system. There are new solutions using broadcast that can bolster risk mitigation strategies for municipalities while offering enhanced capabilities. [Register today!](#)

The [Ontario Bike Summit](#), Canada's largest cycling and active transportation conference, will be in Windsor from May 27-29. Be inspired by success stories including enhancing infrastructure and design, citizen safety and economic development.

Small and mid-sized Ontario municipalities are invited to [submit an expression of interest](#) to participate in Quest Canada's Net-Zero Communities Accelerator program by June 13.

Careers

[Two Senior Advisor Roles - Association of Municipalities of Ontario \(AMO\)](#). Closing Date: May 23, 2025.

[Vice President, Legal and General Counsel - Bluewater Power](#). Closing Date: May 29, 2025.

[General Manager, Social Services Division - County of Lambton](#). Closing Date: June 8, 2025.

[Water Resources Engineer - Lower Trent Conservation](#). Closing Date: June 13, 2025

[Assistant Deputy Minister, Customer Care - Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement](#). Closing Date: June 17, 2025.

[Senior Procurement Officer - Town of Newmarket](#). Closing Date: June 10, 2025

[Program Specialist, Rural Economic Development - Durham Region](#). Closing Date: May 31, 2025.

About AMO

AMO is a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario's 444 municipal governments. AMO supports strong and effective municipal government in Ontario and promotes the value of municipal government as a vital and essential component of Ontario's and Canada's political system. Follow [@AMOPolicy](#) on Twitter!

AMO Contacts

[AMO Watchfile](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

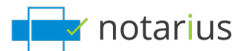
[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

[MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario](#)

[ONE Investment](#)

[Media Inquiries](#)

[Municipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions](#)



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From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 10:00 AM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Watchfile - May 29, 2025



May 29, 2025

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- Showcase your innovation - Submit your projects for the PJ Marshall Awards.
- Upcoming AMO education workshops on leadership.
- Group Benefits trends webinar.
- Help homeowners save money through the LAS Sewer & Water Line Service.
- Virtual Net-Zero Workshop: Space still available.
- RFP: Workforce Training for Professionals in Planning.
- Western Ontario Municipal Conference - October 17.
- Webinar: Quality of Life in North American Cities.
- RailCan proximity survey live until June 1.
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Provincial Matters

The Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade is [providing up to \\$40 million](#) to support communities and local industries facing economic challenges arising from ongoing trade

disruptions.

The Ministry of Energy and Mines strongly encourages municipal CAOs and permitting staff to join the Designated Broadband Projects workshop: [May 29: Asset Management Planning & Causal Costs](#).

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AMO has two upcoming June workshops focused on enhancing leadership skills on strategic thinking and planning as well as community engagement. For more details including dates and times [click here](#).

LAS

[Watch our recent webinar](#) to learn about trends in municipal group benefits and the advantages and cost savings opportunity with the LAS Group Benefits Program through Mosey & Mosey.

Municipalities can help their homeowners by providing sewer and water line protection through the LAS-endorsed warranty program with Service Line Warranties of Canada (SLWC). [Learn more here](#).

LAS' virtual net zero workshop is less than a month away. Mark June 18 in your calendar to discover how you can cut energy costs, boost savings and incorporate low carbon initiatives in your municipal buildings. [Register today](#).

Municipal Wire*

The Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) is [seeking individuals or companies](#) to develop and deliver courses supporting internationally trained planners, career-changers, and employers, while helping existing planners upskill for senior roles in Ontario.

The Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus presents the [Western Ontario Municipal Conference](#), October 17, City of London, with a goal of providing relevant, dynamic programming and opportunities to share knowledge and best practices, with opportunities for networking. Early bird [registration](#) ends August 31.

On June 5, UN-Habitat through the Quality of Life Initiative will [host a webinar](#) inviting city leaders across North America on how to best measure and improve quality of life in cities.

The Railway Association of Canada is asking municipalities to [complete a survey](#) on the modernization of the proximity guidelines of land close to railway operations. More information on the [RailCan website](#).

Small and mid-sized Ontario municipalities are invited to [submit an expression of interest](#) to participate in Quest Canada's Net-Zero Communities Accelerator program by June 13.

Careers

[Director of Community Services - Municipality of Kincardine](#). Closing Date: June 13, 2025.

[Supervisor, Treasury - City of Kawartha Lakes](#). Closing Date: June 8, 2025.

[Data Analysis Coordinator - City of Kawartha Lakes](#). Closing Date: May 30, 2025.

[Administrator, John Noble Home - County of Brant](#). Closing Date: June 16, 2025.

About AMO

AMO is a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario's 444 municipal governments. AMO supports strong and effective municipal government in Ontario and promotes the value of municipal government as a vital and essential component of Ontario's and Canada's political system. Follow [@AMOPolicy](#) on Twitter!

AMO Contacts

[AMO Watchfile](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

[MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario](#)

[ONE Investment](#)

[Media Inquiries](#)

[Municipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions](#)



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From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 11:09 AM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Submissions on Bills 5 and 2



Policy Update - Submissions on Bills 5 and 2

AMO's Bill 5 Standing Committee Submission

AMO has [submitted comments on Bill 5](#), *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act* to the Standing Committee on the Interior. While we understand the need to try different approaches to supporting economic projects, important objectives such as health, safety, environmental protection, community well-being, and Indigenous rights and relations must be upheld. AMO's submission outlines the importance of:

- Ensuring that the use of Special Economic Zones to override local bylaws should only occur with host municipal support, and in cases of extraordinary need;
- Ensuring continued protection for the environment, including species-at-risk and natural habitats; and
- The critical opportunity for Ontario to demonstrate its commitment to reconciliation and stronger relationships with Indigenous rights holders.

AMO's Bill 2 Standing Committee Submission

AMO has [submitted comments on Bill 2](#), *Protect Ontario Through Free Within Canada Act* to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs. AMO applauds the government for taking action to enhance labour mobility and interprovincial trade and highlights the need for continued engagement with AMO to address any impacts on municipal standards and by-laws arising from new mutual recognition frameworks for goods and services.

An online version of this Policy Update is available on the [AMO Website](#).

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From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2025 4:46 PM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Policy Update - OPP Billing Review, Strong Mayor Powers Training, Bill 6 Advocacy, New Federal Minister of Housing & Infrastructure, New Ontario TCIP Program



Policy Update - OPP Billing Review, Strong Mayor Powers Training, Bill 6 Advocacy, New Federal Minister of Housing & Infrastructure, New Ontario TCIP Program

Provincial Government Launches OPP Billing Review

In a letter to impacted Mayors and CAOs sent yesterday, the Ministry of the Solicitor General announced the launch of a review of the OPP cost recovery model. The review is expected to be finalized in time to inform the issuing of 2026 annual billing statements, with opportunities for engagement with municipalities in June.

AMO understands the impact of rising police costs on municipalities across Ontario, including both those with OPP and municipal police services. AMO looks forward to working closely with SOLGEN on this review and putting it within the context of the need to reform the broader provincial-municipal fiscal relationship.

Provincial Strong Mayor Powers Training

Responding to strong AMO advocacy for provincial guidance, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is [offering training on the strong mayor powers framework](#) that was recently extended to 170 more municipalities.

Two training sessions will be offered in the coming weeks, targeted to elected officials, clerks, treasurers and CAOs.

Bill 6, Safe Municipalities Act, Homelessness Encampments Legislation

Today, AMO sent a [letter to Minister Flack](#), sharing AMO's [submission on Bill 6, Safer Municipalities Act, 2025](#).

The legislation includes two key components. If passed by the legislature, a new *Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act, 2025* would further prohibit the consumption of illegal substances in public places. Additionally, amendments to the *Trespass to Property Act* would add aggravating factors to be considered by courts should someone be convicted of a charge under the act.

AMO agrees that urgent action is needed to address the 1400 encampments that now exist in all parts of Ontario across urban, rural and northern communities. While the new police and court tools may be helpful in specific circumstances, we cannot only enforce our way out of the homeless crisis. AMO will continue to advocate for investments in the root causes of homelessness, including deeply affordable housing, access to mental health and addiction supports, and improvements to income security.

New Federal Minister of Housing and Infrastructure

Today, AMO [sent a letter to Minister Robertson](#) congratulating him on his appointment as the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure. AMO will continue working with partners at the province and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to convey the unique role that Ontario municipalities play. We will also look forward to advancing meaningful solutions to improve the current tools and systems municipalities have to build infrastructure and housing, including social housing.

Ontario Launches Trade-Impacted Communities Program

As announced in the 2025 Ontario Budget, the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade is launching a new [Trade-Impacted Communities Program \(TCIP\)](#) to provide up to \$40 million in funding to support communities and local industries that are facing economic challenges arising from ongoing US trade disruptions. Stream 1: Community Economic Development is open for applications on a continuing basis while funding is available. Stream 2: Transformation projects will be open until September 11, 2025.

An online version of this Policy Update is available on the [AMO Website](#).

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From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 5:24 PM
To: Group Arnprior
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Province Introduces Bill 30



Policy Update - Province Introduces Bill 30

Province Introduces Bill 30, *Working For Workers Seven Act, 2025*

Yesterday, the Ontario government tabled its seventh [*Working for Workers Act*](#) (Bill 30). While the stated objective of supporting workers amidst potential job losses arising from the US-Canada trade dynamic is noted, one of its proposals raises significant concerns -- exempting Skills Development Fund Capital Stream-supported capital projects from the requirements of *The Municipal Act* and *The Planning Act*.

Earlier exemptions from municipal planning approvals, such as those related to public universities and "community service facilities" like K-12 schools, hospitals, and long-term care homes are aimed to expedite planning for public entities. Bill 30, however, marks a significant shift by:

- Extending expedited planning processes and exemptions from municipal authorities to private entities without the robust accountability and regulatory frameworks that characterize broader public sector bodies, solely by virtue of their qualification to access a source of provincial funding with broad eligibility; and
- Going beyond exemptions to *The Planning Act* to include exemptions to *The Municipal Act*. These powers could allow for waivers from municipal bylaws, including those related to property tax, development charges, and other local requirements with no clear purpose or rationale.

The cumulative impact of what is now the proposed ability of four separate Ministers to override municipal land use planning and other authorities also raises significant concern by increasing the likelihood of unintended consequences and diffuse accountability. Currently before the legislature are proposals to provide powers to:

- The Minister of Infrastructure to use Minister's Zoning Orders (MZOs) to override *The Planning Act* as part of Bill 17;
- The Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade to create Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to override *The Planning Act* and *The Municipal Act* as part of Bill 5; and
- The Minister of Labour, Immigration, Skills and Training to override *The Planning Act* and *The Municipal Act* for those in receipt of capital funding from the Skills Development Fund under Bill 30.

AMO continues to support the need for bold and innovative action to respond to unprecedented economic challenges. However, the threat of tariffs cannot be used to justify any and all proposals to override provincial and municipal laws. AMO will continue to analyze the proposal and seek opportunities to provide commentary to the legislature.

An online version of this Policy Update is available on the [AMO Website](#).

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Newsletter

June 2025

EOWC Advocacy Update

The EOWC's Queen's Park Advocacy Day: Advancing Eastern Ontario's Priorities



Left-to-Right: Connor Dorey, CAO, County of Hastings; Gerald Lichty, Warden, County of Frontenac; Doug Elmslie, Mayor, City of Kawartha Lakes; Tyler Allsopp, MPP, Bay of Quinte; Nathan Townend, Warden, County of Lennox and Addington; Martin Lang, Warden, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry; Steve Ferguson, Vice-Chair, EOWC; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC; Meredith Staveley-Watson, Director of Government Relations and Policy, EOWC; Toby Randell, Warden, County of Lanark; Corinna Smith-Gatcke, Warden, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville; Peter Emon, Warden, County of Renfrew; Brenda Orchard, CAO, County of Lennox and Addington; Sheridan Graham, Secretary Treasurer, EOWC; Kevin Farrell, CAO, County of Frontenac; Maureen Adams, CAO, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry; Craig Kelley, CAO, County of Renfrew; Gary Dyke, CAO, County of Haliburton; Stephanie DiNucci, Strategic Advisor, Atlas Strategic Advisors; Graydon Smith, Associate Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing; Billy Denault, MPP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke; John Jordan, MPP, Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston; Matthew Rae, Parliamentary Assistant, Municipal Affairs and Housing; Rob Flack, Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing; Doug Ford, Premier, Ontario; Vic Fedeli, Minister, Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade; David Piccini, Minister, Labour, Immigration, Training & Skills Development; Steve Clark, MPP, Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands; Stéphane Sarrazin, MPP, Glengarry-Prescott-Russell; Dave Smith, MPP, Peterborough-Kawartha.



Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC.



Left-to-right: David Piccini, Minister, Labour, Immigration, Training & Skills Development; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC; Jill Dunlop, Minister, Emergency Preparedness and Response; Steve Ferguson, Vice-Chair, EOWC.

The EOWC had an impactful Queen's Park Advocacy Day on May 13, beginning with a Breakfast Reception that highlighted our key strategic priorities: housing, infrastructure, and our newly introduced focus — **economic resilience**.

A sincere thank you to Minister David Piccini for sponsoring the event, and to Minister Rob Flack and MPP Ted Hsu for joining us and offering their perspectives.

We were also proud to be joined by local business leaders from Charlotte Products, Heat-Line, Cavanagh Concrete, and Freymond Lumber, who showcased the strength and innovation of Eastern Ontario's economy.

A key milestone was our multi-minister meeting, including Premier

Doug Ford, where we were honoured to present the EOWC's vision and progress. We extend our appreciation to the Premier and the following leaders for taking the time to engage with us:

- Minister Nolan Quinn (Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security)
- Minister Vic Fedeli (Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade)
- Minister David Piccini (Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development)
- Minister Rob Flack (Municipal Affairs and Housing)
- Associate Minister Graydon Smith (Municipal Affairs and Housing)
- MPP Matt Rae (Perth—Wellington)
- MPP Steve Clark (Leeds—Grenville—Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes)
- MPP Stéphane Sarrazin (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell)
- MPP Billy Denault (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke)
- MPP Dave Smith (Peterborough—Kawartha)
- MPP Tyler Allsopp (Bay of Quinte)
- MPP John Jordan (Lanark—Frontenac—Kingston)

Additional meetings throughout the day included productive discussions with:

- Minister Jill Dunlop (Emergency Preparedness and Response)
- Minister Kinga Surma (Infrastructure)
- Staff from the office of Minister Neil Lumsden (Sport)
- MPP Ted Hsu (Kingston and the Islands)
- MPP Mike Schreiner (Guelph)
- Staff from the office of Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy (Finance)
- Associate Minister Kevin Holland (Forestry and Forest Products)

These valuable conversations reflect our shared commitment to building stronger communities across the province. The EOWC is proud to represent the voice of Eastern Ontario and remains focused on solutions that drive growth, resilience, and prosperity in our region.

Read the EOWC's Queen's Park Advocacy Day News Release Here.

The EOWC Attends Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Annual Conference



Left to right: Jon Altenberg, CEO, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Indicative; Matt Sisco. Mayor, St. Catherine's; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC; Brian Ostrander, Warden, Northumberland County; Nathan Townend, Warden, County of Lennox and Addington.

The EOWC was proud to attend the annual [Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative](#) (GLSLCI) conference in Milwaukee, where leaders from across the region gathered to address critical issues of water security and climate resilience.

Chair Bonnie Clark joined Warden Nathan Townend (Lennox and Addington County), and Warden Brian Ostrander (Northumberland County), for a special signing ceremony, formalizing a joint Memorandum of Understanding between the EOWC and the GLSLCI. Many thanks to Mayor Matt Sisco and CEO Jon Altenberg for their partnership and leadership.

Chair Clark also had the opportunity to connect with Ontario colleagues and congratulated Mayor Tom Mrakas from the Own of Aurora on receiving the Rob Ford Community Leader Award, presented by Ontario Agent-General Earl Provost.

A conference highlight was visiting the Biinaagami Great Lakes–St. Lawrence watershed map installation in downtown Milwaukee—an inspiring reminder of our shared responsibility to protect the world's largest freshwater system.

The EOWC remains dedicated to cross-border collaboration and innovative solutions for a more resilient Eastern Ontario and beyond.

[Read about the EOWC's initiatives amid U.S. tariff threats.](#)

The EOWC Attends 2025 Grow Ontario Food Summit: "Protecting Ontario's Agri-Food Industry"



Left-to-right: Meredith Staveley-Watson, Director of Government Relations and Policy, EOWC; Trevor Jones, Minister, Food and Agri-Business; Nathan Townend, Warden, County of Lennox and Addington; Rob Flack, Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing; Christa Lowry, Chair, ROMA.

On Friday April 10, the EOWC attended the Grown Ontario Food Summit, hosted by Minister Trevor Jones, where leaders from across the agri-food sector came together to tackle today's challenges and shape the future of Ontario's Food systems.

As a key contributor to Ontario's economic engine, the agri-food industry continues to face uncertainty due to global challenges and trade disruptions. The Summit's theme, "Protecting Ontario's Agri-Food Industry," emphasized the importance of collaboration and innovation in sustaining this vital sector.

The event featured engaging speakers, insightful panel discussions, and valuable networking opportunities—all focused on strengthening Ontario's food supply chain and ensuring long-term resilience and global competitiveness.

The EOWC remains committed to supporting our rural communities and advocating for a strong, sustainable agri-food industry that drives economic growth across Eastern Ontario and beyond.

The EOWC Attends CAMA Conference, and CAO Brenda Orchard, Named CAMA President



The EOWC attended the 51st Annual CAMA Conference and Annual General Meeting held in beautiful Mont Tremblant, Québec, from May 26 to 28. Hosted in Mont Tremblant, delegates gathered to connect, learn, and celebrate.

The EOWC extends its congratulations to Brenda Orchard, Chief Administrative Officer for the County of Lennox & Addington, on her appointment as [President of the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators](#).

Orchard, who also serves as the CAMA Representative for Ontario, assumed the role from her previous position as First Vice-President during the association's Annual General Meeting held on May 27.

"One of the greatest privileges of my career has been serving on the CAMA Board. As an Association we work hard to promote excellence in our profession and to support our colleagues in their challenging roles," said Orchard. "It is a rewarding experience to work alongside such passionate and committed leaders from across the country to help make our communities vibrant and strong."

The EOWC also extends its congratulations to Craig Kelley, CAO of the County of Renfrew, for receiving recognition of 20 years of service in the municipal service sector.

The EOWC is proud to see its CAOs being recognized on a national stage.

The EOWC Releases New Economic Resilience Strategic Priority and Data

The EOWC has introduced economic resilience as a new strategic priority, recognizing the critical need to safeguard the region's economy against future disruptions. With annual sales across Eastern Ontario averaging \$124 billion—including \$115 billion from the private sector—strengthening the economic foundation has never been more vital.

Manufacturing leads the region's economy with \$43.9 billion in annual sales. In particular, five key sectors—manufacturing, agriculture, transportation, electrical equipment, and residential construction. These sectors represent \$24 billion in economic activity and support nearly 49,000 jobs, making up 21% of the regional economy.

By focusing on these areas, the EOWC aims to proactively address risks, support long-term growth, and ensure the region remains economically strong and competitive.

See more of the [EOWC's data on Eastern Ontario Economic Resilience here](#).

The EOWC Congratulates and Encourages Newly Elected Federal Government to Prioritize National Prosperity Partnership with Municipalities



Following the recent federal election and the election of Prime Minister Mark Carney, the EOWC extends its congratulations and looks forward to working collaboratively with the new government to address the pressing needs of local communities across Canada.

As we move forward, it is essential that we adopt a long-term approach that not only addresses these unique needs but also sets the country on a path to a stronger, more sustainable future.

The EOWC, proudly supports the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and respectfully encourages the newly elected federal government to prioritize the establishment of a [National Prosperity Partnership](#) between the federal government and municipal governments across the country.

This partnership presents an important opportunity to engage in a national dialogue about how Canada can best fund and support economic growth, while ensuring that the needs and aspirations of local communities are at the forefront of decision-making.

Key areas of focus for this proposed partnership include:

- Supporting local economic growth and resilience
- Investing in infrastructure renewal
- Achieving housing affordability
- Addressing homelessness with locally-driven solutions
- Ensuring the safety and well-being of communities
- Building climate-resilient communities
- Fostering the development of thriving rural, remote, and northern communities

[Read more about the National Prosperity Partnership here.](#)

Premier Ford Visits Peterborough County After Ice Storm



Left to right: Doug Ford, Premier, Ontario; Dave Smith, MPP, Peterborough-Kawartha; Jill Dunlop, Minister, Emergency Preparedness and Response; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC.

Premier Doug Ford, Minister Jill Dunlop and MPP Dave Smith visited the Peterborough County Douro Depot in the Township of Douro-Dummer to witness firsthand the devastating impact of the recent ice storm on the community.

During the visit, residents had the opportunity to speak directly with the Premier and Minister, sharing their experiences and ongoing challenges. Following time spent clearing debris and engaging with residents, Premier Ford, Minister Dunlop, and MPP Smith met with Warden Clark to discuss the next steps in Peterborough County's recovery efforts.

County officials expressed deep gratitude for the visit and the continued support from the Province, acknowledging the commitment shown to the well-being of residents and the recovery of the region.

EOWC In The Media

Community Futures Peterborough and Partners Launch 'Tariff Toolkit' for Local Businesses

Community Futures Peterborough, alongside local government and business partners, has launched a Tariff Toolkit to help businesses navigate economic challenges tied to ongoing U.S. - Canada trade tensions. The free guide, Navigating Tariff Impacts with Strategy, offers practical steps for managing risk, diversifying supply chains, and exploring new markets

Download the toolkit here.

County of Renfrew Featured in Ontario Newsroom for Expanded Emergency Department

The County of Renfrew was recently featured in the Ontario Newsroom, highlighting St. Francis Memorial Hospital's largest redevelopment in history. With an \$18.6 million investment from the Ontario government, the expansion will add 6,000 square feet to the hospital's emergency department and renovate the ambulatory care clinic, significantly improving access to high-quality care for local residents.

Once complete in 2027, the new emergency department will feature a dedicated ambulance entrance, a quiet room for mental health patients, an upgraded trauma area, and enhanced infection control measures.

The expanded facility will handle 11,900 visits annually, ensuring faster, more efficient care for families in the community. Construction will not interrupt 24/7 emergency services, and the project is part of Ontario's broader efforts to modernize healthcare facilities across the province.

Read more about [the redevelopment here](#).

EOWC's Partnership with U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Coalition Gaining Recognition

On March 27, the EOWC and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding, marking a new chapter in cross-border collaboration. This partnership aims to strengthen border relations and share best practices to build resilient, thriving communities on both sides of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region.

The agreement has already gained media attention, with coverage in the [Penticton Herald](#), [KawarthaNow](#), and [The Badger Herald](#).

This media recognition highlights the importance of the agreement and the growing interest in cross-border efforts to support sustainable, connected communities.

The EOWC's Historic Queen's Park Advocacy Day Makes Headlines



On May 13, the EOWC hosted a Queen's park Advocacy Day including a breakfast reception and meetings with various ministers. The highlight of the day was the historic meeting for the EOWC - a meeting with Premier Doug Ford.

Premier Ford was accompanied by Ministers Nolan Quinn, Vic Fedeli, Rob Flack, Graydon Smith, David Piccini; Parliamentary Assistants and MPPs Matthew Rae, Steve Clark, Stephane Sarrazin, Dave Smith, Tyler Allsopp, John Jordan, Billy Denault. The EOWC feels immense gratitude for the Premier, Ministers and MPPs taking time out of the day to hear about the advocacy efforts, plans and data the EOWC has gathered.

The historic moment for the EOWC has been making media waves as the EOWC's meeting has been shared on [Renfrew County's page](#), [Kawartha Lakes' page](#), [QuinteNews](#), [Municipal Information Network](#), [Peterborough County's page](#), and [Napanee Today](#).

This media recognition highlights this significant milestone for the EOWC and advocacy efforts for Eastern Ontario.



Hon. Right Mark Carney Elected Prime Minister

The EOWC would like to congratulate Honourable Right Mark Carney on a federal election victory and extend our appreciation to all who ran in the recent election.

The EOWC remains **'Ready to Work and Ready to Grow'**, focused on economic resilience, infrastructure development and maintenance, creating housing, and supporting increased health care access.

The EOWC looks forward with the new federal government working to strengthen the communities amongst eastern Ontario.



Ontario Moves to Unlock Internal Free Trade

The Ontario government is taking bold steps to boost the economy and cut red tape with the introduction of the Protect Ontario through Free Trade within Canada Act.

If passed, the legislation will remove internal trade and labour mobility barriers, helping Ontario businesses grow and workers move more freely across provinces.

Key initiatives include:

- Recognizing certified workers from other provinces "As of Right,"
- Enabling direct-to-consumer alcohol sales across provinces, and
- Launching a \$50M Ontario Together Trade Fund.

Ontario is also partnering with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to enhance trade and labour collaboration—setting a national precedent for stronger economic unity.

Learn more about the [Protect Ontario through Free Trade within Canada Act here.](#)

Ontario Expanding Strong Mayor Powers to 169 Additional Municipalities

Starting May 1, Ontario plans to extend strong mayor powers to heads of council in 169 additional municipalities.

This move supports provincial priorities like building homes,

infrastructure, and transit faster by cutting red tape and streamlining decision-making.

Already in place in 47 municipalities, these powers provide mayors with new tools—like proposing budgets and reorganizing departments—while maintaining oversight and accountability through council checks and balances.

Read [more here](#) and see [the list of the additional 169 municipalities here](#).

Donna Skelly Becomes Ontario's First Female Speaker

[MPP Donna Skelly has been elected as the 43rd Speaker of the Ontario Legislature](#)—making history as the first woman to hold the role.

A former broadcast journalist and current representative for Flamborough—Glanbrook since 2018, Skelly previously served as deputy Speaker.

She succeeds Ted Arnott, who retired after nearly seven years. Skelly aims to bring a more professional tone to the chamber as members return for the new legislative session.

Ontario Strengthens Local Governance with New Legislation

Ontario is reintroducing the Municipal Accountability Act, 2025 to enhance municipal governance and accountability. [The proposed legislation](#) aims to create a standardized municipal code of conduct, establish consistent integrity commissioner inquiry processes, and mandate training for council members and certain local boards. If passed, the act could enforce penalties, including removal from office for serious violations, upon the recommendation of municipal integrity commissioners.

Minister Rob Flack emphasized that strong local governance begins with accountability, while AMO President Robin Jones praised the bill for holding elected officials to higher standards of conduct. This legislative move promises to empower municipal leaders to uphold the trust residents place in them.

Ontario Invests \$1.3 Billion to Support Manufacturing Jobs

The Ontario government is enhancing the Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit, committing an additional \$1.3 billion over three years to help manufacturers lower costs and invest in buildings, machinery, and equipment.

As part of the upcoming 2025 Budget, the proposed changes will:

- Increase the tax credit rate from 10% to 15% for Canadian-controlled private corporations;
- Extend the credit to non-Canadian-controlled private corporations as a non-refundable tax credit;

- Allow eligible businesses to receive up to \$3 million annually.

The move comes amid growing concerns over job losses linked to U.S. tariffs. The government says this investment will help safeguard Ontario's 830,000 manufacturing workers and attract new investment to strengthen the province's economy.

Read more about [Ontario's investment in manufacturing jobs here](#).

Ontario Introduces More Convenient Care Act to Strengthen Health System

The Ontario government has re-introduced the More Convenient Care Act, 2025—a key step in its commitment to building a more connected, transparent, and patient-focused health care system.

This legislation supports better access to care, enhances hospital governance, modernizes digital health tools, and empowers health professionals across the province. From streamlining emergency services to giving Ontarians secure access to their health records online, the Act ensures the right care is delivered in the right place, at the right time.

Learn more about [how Ontario is protecting and modernizing health care for the future](#).

Ontario Accelerates Home and Infrastructure Development with New Legislation and Funding

The Government of Ontario is taking bold steps to address the housing crisis and improve infrastructure by introducing the [Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025](#). This legislation aims to cut red tape, lower development costs, and fast-track construction, in close partnership with municipalities across the province.

As part of this initiative, the province is boosting its investment in housing-enabling infrastructure with an additional \$400 million, bringing the total to nearly \$2.3 billion over four years through the

Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF) and Municipal Housing Infrastructure Fund (MHIP).

Key measures include:

- Simplifying development charges and municipal approval processes
- Reducing construction costs by encouraging innovation
- Harmonizing building and road standards
- Expanding fast-track approvals for transit and housing projects

Ontario is also working closely with local governments to streamline planning and unlock more housing near transit. These changes aim to get homes built faster, create jobs, and build a more affordable, efficient future for all Ontarians.

Ontario Permanently Cuts Gas Tax and Ends Tolls on Highway 407 East

As part of its ongoing effort to help families and businesses manage

rising costs, the Ontario government is making two major cost-saving moves: [permanently cutting the gas tax and removing tolls from Highway 407 East](#).

Premier Doug Ford announced that the province will lock in its current 9-cent-per-litre gas and fuel tax rate, saving households an average of \$115 annually. Since the temporary cut was introduced in 2022, Ontarians have saved \$1.7 billion at the pumps.

In a move to improve affordability and reduce gridlock, tolls on the provincially owned section of Highway 407 East (from Brock Road to Highway 35/115) will be eliminated effective June 1, 2025. This change is expected to save commuters up to \$7,200 a year, and follows the earlier removal of tolls on Highways 412 and 418.

These initiatives are part of Ontario's broader strategy to:

- Lower the cost of living
- Support economic growth
- Improve transportation access and affordability

Ontario and Manitoba Unite to Break Down Trade Barriers

Ontario Premier Doug Ford and Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew have signed a new [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\) aimed at eliminating interprovincial trade barriers](#).

The agreement will boost the flow of goods, services, investment, and workers between the two provinces—strengthening economic ties and reducing costs for families and businesses. This is the latest in a series of efforts by Ontario to enhance free trade within Canada, including MOUs with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and the landmark Protect Ontario Through Free Trade Within Canada Act.

With over \$19.5 billion in trade between Ontario and Manitoba in 2021 alone, this partnership signals a major step toward a more unified and resilient Canadian economy.

Ontario Releases 2025 Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario

[Ontario's 2025 Budget, A Plan to Protect Ontario](#), outlines bold steps to strengthen the province's economy and safeguard jobs, businesses, and families amid global economic uncertainty. Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy announced measures to unleash economic growth through targeted investments in workers, critical minerals, infrastructure, and Indigenous partnerships—all while maintaining a responsible path to balance by 2027–28.

Key highlights include:

- A \$500M Critical Minerals Processing Fund to boost domestic production.
- A \$3B expansion of the Indigenous Opportunities Financing Program.
- A proposed expansion of the Ontario Made Manufacturing Tax Credit, providing \$1.3B in support.
- A new \$5B Protecting Ontario Account to shield businesses from tariff shocks.
- Permanent cuts to gas and fuel taxes, saving households an

average of \$115 annually.

- Over \$200B in infrastructure investments over 10 years, including highways, public transit, health care, and schools.

The budget reflects the government's commitment to building a resilient, self-reliant economy that protects Ontarians today and strengthens the province for the future.

Ontario Government Moves Forward with New Campbellford Memorial Hospital in Northumberland County

As part of the 2025 Ontario Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario, the provincial government has announced the start of [planning for the construction of a new Campbellford Memorial Hospital In Northumberland County](#). This investment will significantly improve access to high-quality, modern health care for residents in Trent Hills and across Northumberland, Peterborough, and Hastings Counties.

The project marks a major step toward building a state-of-the-art facility that will expand programs and services, increase inpatient capacity, and improve emergency and community care through a new health care campus. The new hospital will also include enhanced infection control measures and support services tailored to the needs of the region's growing and aging population.

This initiative is part of Ontario's nearly \$60 billion investment to build and upgrade more than 50 hospitals across the province, ensuring families can access care when and where they need it—close to home.

Ontario Launches Trade-Impacted Communities Program to Support Local Resilience

The Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade has launched the Trade-Impacted Communities Program (TICP)—a new, competitive funding initiative aimed at helping Ontario communities and industries navigate economic challenges caused by U.S. trade disruptions.

With up to \$40 million in funding available, the TICP supports local projects aligned with Ontario's economic priorities, including:

- Economic resiliency – Building local competitiveness and growth opportunities
- Supply-chain diversification – Strengthening key sectors like manufacturing, agri-food, and critical minerals
- Trade partnerships – Expanding export markets and reducing reliance on the U.S.
-

The program includes two streams:

- Stream 1: Community Economic Development – Supporting local strategies and immediate resiliency efforts
- Stream 2: Transformational Projects – Backing large-scale, collaborative projects to grow and modernize key industries

Eligible applicants include municipalities, economic development organizations, business incubators, and industry associations.

Upcoming Info Webinars:

- Program Orientation: May 28, 2025

- Stream 1 Overview: June 4, 2025
- Stream 2 Overview: June 11, 2025

For more information or to register, contact Amanda Wouters at amanda.wouters@ontario.ca, or direct general inquiries to ticip@ontario.ca.



AMO Launches Municipal Health Survey

Following the successful release of our homelessness report, AMO is launching a new survey to better understand the health care challenges municipalities face. With many communities using property tax dollars to fill system gaps, your input is vital.

Heads of Council and treasurers have been sent details—your participation will help strengthen evidence-based advocacy across Ontario.

AMO Welcomes the Reintroduction of Municipal Codes of Conduct Legislation

AMO welcomes the reintroduction of long-awaited legislation to strengthen accountability standards for elected municipal officials. Promised after extensive public consultations in 2021, the proposed legislation aims to:

- Standardize municipal codes of conduct and integrity commissioner processes;
- Introduce a formal role for Ontario's Integrity Commissioner in local matters; and
- Establish a process to remove or disqualify council members and certain board members for serious violations.

In April, AMO recommended amendments to address concerns, including a too-high threshold for removal from office and the need for progressive penalties.

Upcoming Events



P3s for Municipalities: 6-Part Webinar Series

The EOWC is excited to build its partnership with the [Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships](#) (CCPPP). CCPPP is offering the free P3s for municipalities webinar series available for municipal and Indigenous employees and elected officials across Canada.

Designed for those new to or seeking a refresher on P3 infrastructure delivery, the series covers fundamentals, opportunities, challenges, and tools for successful P3 procurement.

CCPPP is also introducing the Council's new municipal P3 recommendations and insights from the updated [Public-Private Partnerships: A Guide for Municipalities](#).

Upcoming webinars: June 3, and September 16. Webinars will continue to be available on the CCPPP site.

[Sign up for the webinars](#)



AMO Strategic Leadership Workshops

AMO is offering two strategic leadership workshops designed to support elected municipal officials as they navigate increasing pressures—from provincial interventions and council cohesion challenges to ethical concerns, staff relations, and growing constituent expectations.

These interactive, expert-led sessions will provide practical tools and insights to strengthen leadership and improve municipal governance:

Strategic Thinking, Planning, and Leading **June 4 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

This session offers tools and strategies to strengthen leadership effectiveness, including approaches to stewardship, strategic planning, and fiscal sustainability.

[Register now for Thinking, Planning, and Leading](#)

The Value of Community Engagement: Insights and Approaches **June 25 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

This workshop emphasizes the importance of clear communication and meaningful engagement with the public, particularly around local budgets and strategic plans. It highlights how elected officials can lead more impactful community conversations.

[Register now for The Value of Community Engagement: Insights and Approaches](#)

AMO Municipal Trade and Tariff Forum

On June 6, 2025, AMO will host a forum to bring together members, stakeholders, and partners to assess the impacts of tariff and trade disruptions on Ontario Municipalities and the business sector. The forum will focus on identifying strategies to address and mitigate these challenges, fostering new alliances and relationships to support effective economic advocacy.

Key topics will include:

- What the trade war means for municipalities
- Building Ontario in uncertain times
- Changing approach to procurement
- seizing opportunities to strengthen Ontario

[Find more information and register for the forum here.](#)

AMO Rural Healthy Democracy Forum

On June 11, 2025, AMO will host its Rural Healthy Democracy Forum. AMO's Healthy Democracy Project is an initiative aimed at improving local democracy through respectful and diverse civic engagement. It's all about collaboration and working together to strengthen democracy in Ontario.

This full-day event will bring together municipal leaders, experts, and academics to discuss the state of democracy in rural Ontario.

[Find more information and register for the forum here.](#)

ROMA's Teeny Tiny Summit

On June 17th, 2025, the Ontario Ministry of Rural Affairs and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) will host the Teeny Tiny Summit.

This summit focuses on the challenges and opportunities faced by

Ontario's smallest rural communities. With practical tools, examples, and insights from community leaders, the Summit offers valuable economic development strategies tailored for small towns.

[Find more information about ROMA's summit here.](#)



Crisis Communication in Action: The Mayor-CAO Dynamic During Disasters

Join AMO and OMAA on June 24 from 12–1 PM for a free dynamic virtual session on effective leadership during municipal emergencies. Hear from leaders in Huntsville and Red Lake as they share real-life lessons on navigating crises like wildfires, floods, and cyberattacks.

Strengthen your approach to communication, collaboration, and public trust when it matters most.

[Sign up for the free webinar here.](#)



AMO and TMU Present: Cybersecurity Training for Municipal Councillors

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), in collaboration with Toronto Metropolitan University's Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst, is hosting a vital training session to support municipal councillors in understanding and addressing today's cybersecurity threats.

As cyber-attacks on municipalities become more frequent and sophisticated, elected officials have a critical role to play in ensuring their organization's cyber resilience. This half-day virtual session will help councillors prepare for, prevent, and respond to cyber incidents with confidence and clarity.

On October 21, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., participants will engage in expert-led lectures, guided discussions, and practical activities that explore the evolving cyber threat landscape, highlight best practices in prevention, and clarify the leadership role of elected officials during a cyber event.

[Sign up for the training session here.](#)

Connect With Us on LinkedIn, Facebook and X



About the EOWC

The EOWC is a regional non-profit organization representing 13 upper and single-tier municipalities across Eastern Ontario. The EOWC supports and advocates on behalf of 103 municipalities and nearly 800,000 residents. The EOWC covers an area of approximately 50,000 square kilometers from Northumberland County to the Québec border.

The EOWC has gained support and momentum by speaking with a united voice to champion regional municipal priorities and work with government, business leaders, the media, and the public.

Visit the EOWC's website at eowc.org.

Connect with the EOWC

2025 Chair, Warden of Peterborough County, Bonnie Clark

2025 Vice-Chair, Mayor of Prince Edward County, Steve Ferguson

Director of Government Relations and Policy, Meredith Staveley-Watson

info@eowc.org





Premier of Ontario, The Honorable Doug Ford (sent by email, premier@ontario.ca)

Provincial Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. MPP, Todd McCarthy (sent by email, todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org)

Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, MPP, Rob Flack (sent by email, rob.flack@pc.ola.org)

Sarnia Lambton Bkejwanong Provincial MPP, Bob Bailey (sent by email, bob.baileyco@pc.ola.org)

Sarnia Lambton Bkejwanong Federal MP, Marilyn Gladu (sent by email, marilyn.gladu@parl.gc.ca)

AMO (sent by email, amo@amo.on.ca)

All Municipalities (sent by email)

May 27th, 2025

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming, at its Planning Council meeting on May 26h, 2025, passed the following motion calling for a pause of the enactment of BILL 5 PROTECT ONTARIO BY UNLEASHING OUR ECONOMY ACT 2025:

MOTION TO PAUSE BILL 5 PROTECT ONTARIO BY UNLEASHING OUR ECONOMY ACT 2025

Whereas the province has introduced Bill 5, Protect Ontario by unleashing our Economy 2025 which is intended to speed up housing and economic development in Ontario.

And whereas the proposed legislation will include the repeal of the Endangered Species Act of 2007 and replace it with the Conservation Species Act of 2025.

And whereas the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks primarily manages the Act, The Committee on the Status of Species in Ontario (COSSARO) is responsible for assessing and classifying species.

And whereas COSSARO is comprised of experts with scientific and traditional knowledge and operates independently from the government ensuring impartial assessments of species at risk, the provincial cabinet will now decide what species will remain or be removed from endangered, concerned or at-risk status.

And whereas the current law considers the habitat to be all the areas that the species relies on for living, gathering food, migrating, hibernating and reproducing. The new law however, narrows that definition to "a dwelling place, such as a den, nest or other similar place, that is occupied or habitually occupied by one or more members of a species for the purposes of breeding, rearing, staging, wintering or hibernating"

And whereas the legislation would gut environmental assessment processes, speed mining and infrastructure development and take a "register-first, ask-questions-later" approach that would allow developers to begin projects before their environmental implications are fully known and allow for economic zones which will eliminate any environmental mitigation measures or protections.

And whereas the legislation would eliminate provincial responsibility for federally listed migratory birds and aquatic species because it says such birds and species are under federal jurisdiction, even though the province has historically administered such duties.

And whereas the government will enhance funding for the Species Conservation Program, which will see contributions more than quadruple to \$20 million each year for on the ground projects that directly support efforts to conserve and protect listed species, the funding will only go to projects in regions that would otherwise not be considered viable for housing priorities, essentially allowing for the extirpation of local ecoregions in Ontario.

And whereas while development is necessary for human progress, Bill 5 will pose significant challenges to mitigating water, soil and air pollution; will overexploit natural resources, and increase invasive species in each uniquely identified ecoregion in Ontario.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of Plympton-Wyoming urges the government to pause the proposed legislation and maintain strong environmental laws that prevent extinction of species and protect local ecoregions.

And furthermore, the Council of Plympton-Wyoming asks that the government recognize and give meaningful consideration to ecoregions in Ontario through their unique perspectives and preserve Ontario's natural heritage systems in the application of any proposed updated provincial legislation for the long-term growth, sustainability and well-being of our communities.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email.



Mackenzie Baird
mbaird@plympton-wyoming.ca
Planning Technician
Town of Plympton-Wyoming

Council Meeting

Motion # 05/14/2025 - 14
Title: Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act
Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Moved by: Jennifer Prenger
Seconded by: Beth Blackwell

Whereas the Ontario government has fast-tracked Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025 (Bill 5), such that it was referred to the Standing Committee on the Interior on May 6, 2025, after being first read on April 17, 2025, and

Whereas the written submission deadline for participation on Bill 5 is May 26, 2025, at 6:00 PM (EDT), and

Whereas Bill 5 would enact the Special Economic Zones Act, 2025; amend/repeal the Endangered Species Act, 2007 and replace it by enacting the Species Conservation Act, 2025; and amend various Acts including the Ontario Heritage Act, the Mining Act, the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, and the Electricity Act, 1998 and to revoke various regulations in relation to development and procurement, and

Whereas Bill 5 will allow the Lieutenant Governor in Council to create zones anywhere in Ontario where municipal and provincial laws will not apply, and where projects or proponents can be exempted from requirements under provisions of an Act or of a regulation, including environmental and heritage laws, and

Whereas the provisions of Bill 5 as written include anti-democratic principles and risks undermining civil liberties, Indigenous rights, the environment and local government oversight, and

Whereas the Municipality of Kincardine believes that the provincial priorities of housing, resource development and economic development can be achieved without subverting existing laws, undermining municipal authority, threatening the environment, restricting industry growth, or undermining informed consent with Indigenous communities; now therefore be it

Resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Kincardine hereby opposes Bill 5; and
That Council formally express its opposition to Bill 5 in favour of preserving democracy, transparency, accountability, the environment, civil liberties, and Indigenous rights; and

That Council encourage the province to prioritize democratic principles and governance systems that support responsible development, environmental preservation, and acknowledge our responsibility to future generations; and

That Council formally request that the Ontario government reject Bill 5; and

That a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, ; the Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines; MPP Lisa Thompson; all Ontario municipalities; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and the Standing Committee on the Interior.

Carried.

Jennifer Lawrie

Clerk

May 28, 2025

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of May 27, 2025 the following resolution regarding Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025 was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 205-317

DATE: May 27, 2025

MOVED BY: Councillor MacNaughton

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hirsch

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to many Acts within one bill which undermine environmental protections in order to "unleash the economy"; and

WHEREAS multiple inclusions will impact habitat, biodiversity protections and environmental integrity without proper process including but not limited to:

- **the repeal and replacement of the Endangered Species Act with a weaker act;**
- **the creation of a Special Economic Zones Act which will permit exemptions from legislated environmental protections;**
- **changes to provisions to the Mining Act which provide sweeping powers to the Minister of Energy and Mines that are poorly defined, subject to caprice, or possibly designed to enable exemption from environment protection; and**

WHEREAS proposed changes will override local planning authority, provincial legislation, and bylaw enforcement for the benefit of specific preferred proponents over the rights of Ontarians; and

WHEREAS First Nations citizens have an enshrined right to access their own archeology and Canadians have an enshrined responsibility to seek free, prior and informed consent from First Nation neighbours regarding land use; and

WHEREAS several proposed changes could imperil the health of lands and water for which First Nations have traditional and treaty rights; and

WHEREAS the provisions of the Special Economic Zones Act are not clear enough to ensure that there are adequate legal and environmental protections to offset risks to Ontarians and First Nations members, to provide adequate safeguards against bad faith environmental practice; and protect against unsafe labour practice as identified by labour sector organizations; and

WHEREAS fairness is enshrined in both Canada's and Ontario's laws yet proposed changes seem to permit prejudicial regulatory practice (e.g. codifying permissions for "trusted proponents" over others); and

WHEREAS the wording of the changes to the Electricity Act seem to support Canadian ownership of energy suppliers but appear to potentially restrict development of specific types of energy and could impact local renewable energy development; and

WHEREAS there is no evidence that undermining of environmental protections, local legal frameworks, and the rights of First Nations communities in Ontario are a necessary step to "unleash the economy"; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the County of Prince Edward supports any regulation that could encourage energy providers to Buy Canadian but urges the province to clarify the proposed provisions of the Energy Act and ensure they foster local green energy development; and

THAT the province remove the elements in Bill 5 that would reduce current environmental protections, reduce protections for species at risk, and reduce legal protection from bad faith actors in special economic zones; and

THAT the Council of the County of Prince Edward urges the Province to further define Special Economic Zones and their purpose with more clarity and ensure that activities within such zones are equally subject to the local and provincial laws that support all of Ontario and First Nations people and foster our social, cultural and environmental prosperity;

AND FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the County of Prince Edward expresses solidarity with the concerns of our neighbouring community, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and members of the Haudenosaunee Nation and support Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and their letter to the province of May 16th 2025, attached; and **THAT** this resolution be shared with the Honourable Doug Ford, Premiere of Ontario; Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines; Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and

Housing; Todd McCarthy Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health; Tyler Allsopp, Member of Provincial Parliament for Bay of Quinte; Chief Don Maracle, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte; AMO; ROMA; and the Municipalities of Ontario.

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Victoria Leskie, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor MacNaughton



The Honourable Doug Ford

Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Main Legislative
Building Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

Re: Ontario Works Rates

At its regular meeting held on May 20, 2025, the Council of the Township of Assignack passed the following resolution expressing support of the increasing Ontario Works rates:

#099-05-2025 J Hooper - D Elliott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we support the Town of Cobourg to urge the Province to increase the Ontario Works rate to match ODSP rate increases which are indexed to inflation and commit to ongoing cost of living increases above their rate of inflation to match years where rates were frozen.

Carried

We respectfully request your consideration of this resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Stasia Carr'.

Stasia Carr, Clerk
Township of Assignack

Media Release**Algonquin College names Angela Rintoul as Pembroke Campus dean**

PEMBROKE (May 29, 2025) – Algonquin College is pleased to announce the appointment of Angela Rintoul as the eighth dean of the Pembroke Campus. Rintoul is a respected leader in health care and post-secondary education, bringing more than two decades of experience in health care delivery and over 10 years of academic leadership to her new role.

Rintoul has served the Pembroke Campus in progressive leadership positions, most recently as acting dean, where she demonstrated a deep commitment to student success, fiscal stewardship and community engagement. Before that, she served as academic chair of the Health and Community Studies department, leading academic quality, program innovation and financial stability in a post-pandemic environment.

“Angela brings a calm, thoughtful, and inclusive leadership style that has already had a meaningful impact on our campus culture,” said Claude Brulé, President and CEO of Algonquin College. “Her ability to balance academic excellence with strong community partnerships makes her the ideal choice to lead the Pembroke Campus forward.”

Rintoul began her career as a registered nurse working in Nunavut, later earning a master’s in Nursing in Advanced Nursing Practice and working as a nursing practitioner. Her unique blend of frontline health care experience and academic leadership informs her approach to leading a diverse, learner-driven campus. She is a passionate advocate for lifelong learning, community development and reconciliation.

“I’m deeply honoured to serve as dean of the Pembroke Campus,” said Rintoul. “This is a remarkable community of learners, educators and partners. I look forward to continuing to support student success and innovation while championing the values that make our campus such a vital part of Renfrew County.”

1 College Way

Pembroke, Ontario

K8A 0C8

Community

and Student

Affairs

Department

Office: 613-735-4700

Ext. 2712

Fax: 613-735-8805

Algonquin College's Pembroke Campus, located on the shores of the Kitchissippi River (Ottawa River), offers more than 20 programs, including unique hands-on learning opportunities in forestry, nursing, outdoor adventure, trades, business and technology. The campus is a key contributor to the social and economic prosperity of the Ottawa Valley, serving students from across Ontario and around the world.

For more information,

Jodi Bucholtz

Acting Manager, Community & Student Affairs

613-735-4700, ext. 2712



ARNPRIOR • BRAESIDE • McNAB SENIORS AT HOME PROGRAM INC.

Dear Neighbour:

You likely know a senior friend, neighbor, or even a parent who's quietly struggling to make ends meet.

While tariffs, inflation and rising costs dominate the headlines, **we at Seniors At Home are focused on what matters most, like lessening the burden for seniors and people with disabilities right here in our community.**

Too often, seniors and individuals with disabilities suffer in silence, too proud to ask for help. Many are forced to choose between putting food on the table or paying their rent. That's where we come in.

Our mission is simple: to help vulnerable seniors live safely and comfortably in their own homes for as long as possible.

While we do receive partial government funding, **the reality is that rising costs over the years have far outpaced this support**, leaving our agency with a growing deficit and increased reliance on community donations.

Here's how our programs and services make an impact:

- Affordable and nutritious meals currently at \$7.00 that are subsidized to ensure affordability
- Local In-Town and Out-of-Town Medical Transportation (including wheelchair accessible transportation)
- Referrals of Service Arrangement Workers for Home Maintenance both inside and outside the home
- A Free Income Tax Clinic (by appt., 3 days a week during tax season)
- Monthly Social Events and Fundraising Events that combat loneliness and fosters meaningful connections
- Friendly Visiting, Telephone Security and a Grocery Shopping Program
- A Foot Care Clinic
- A Loan Cupboard for essential medical assistive devices (open to all)

These services are only possible because of generous support from people like you — people who care about giving back to those who once raised us, taught us, or inspired us.

Please consider making a donation today. Whether it's the price of a coffee or more, every dollar makes a difference!



Seniors At Home client Alice, greeted by Meals on Wheels volunteer, Cathy Anas

How your donations make a difference...

- ✓ Last year we delivered 12,367 Hot and Frozen Meals to 379 individuals
- ✓ 17,462 Individuals trips were made for "In-town" and "Out-of-town" appointments to 1,233 clients
- ✓ 171 Service Arrangement appointments were coordinated for 118 individuals
- ✓ We coordinated 1,440 Friendly Visits and Security Checks to 32 clients
- ✓ 779 Medical devices were loaned to 392 clients through our Loan Cupboard
- ✓ 2,135 Meals were enjoyed by 574 individuals who engaged in Social and Congregate dining in the last year
- ✓ We completed Income Tax returns for 390 individuals
- ✓ 577 Foot Care appointments were facilitated for 196 clients

Arnprior-Braeside-McNab Seniors At Home Program Inc.

Towne Centre, Unit A1, 106 McGonigal St. West, Arnprior, Ontario K7S 1M4 - 613-623-7981 - www.cssagency.ca
Charitable Reg. #106723042RR0001

Follow Us



Testimonials

"I want to thank you for calling me to check on my mom last week. I really appreciate the care you show for our seniors in the community".

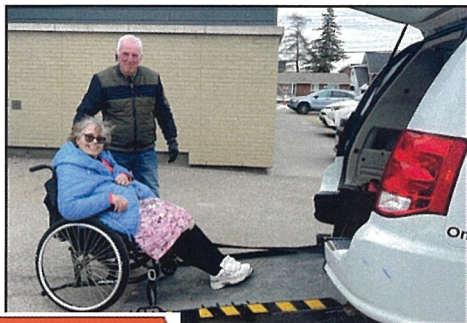
Margaret (Daughter of Client)

"I'm writing to thank you, so that you will know how important and appreciated your kindness, assistance and thoughtfulness has been to my well-being".

Jeanne Rossi (Client)

In my role, I see the benefits of Seniors At Home every single day. I feel confident referring them to Seniors at Home for many of their programs such as their Frozen/ Hot Meals on Wheels or the Medical Assistive Device Loan Cupboard to obtain the equipment they need to remain safe in their homes. I regularly hear positive feedback about their Transportation Program – clients have such kind things to say about the drivers and volunteers. We are so fortunate to have Arnprior-Braeside-McNab Seniors At Home in our community and I could not do my job and support my clients without the dedication and support from Seniors at Home!

Jessica Francis, (RN)
Care Coordinator



Return or drop off this ballot with your donation before July 30th to be entered into the draw for some fun prizes!

NAME _____

PHONE _____

PLEASE DONATE TODAY!

Have a smart Device?
SCAN HERE



Secure online donations
available through
CanadaHelps



**E-transfer to:
donate@cssagency.ca**

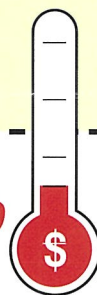
I Want to Help...

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- I can give \$_____ by mail using the Blue Envelope provided
- Cash, credit card, cheque or debit at our office at
106 McGonigal Street W., Arnprior, Unit A1
- Credit card payment over the phone by calling 613-623-7981
- I prefer to make automated monthly contributions. Call 613-623-7981
- Via our website at www.cssagency.ca/support-us/donate-today
- E-transfer to: donate@cssagency.ca (reference the word "blue")
- I would like to receive information about special events and newsletters via email.

Email: _____

GOAL \$30,000



**Or scan the
QR CODE
to the left**



HOME & COMMUNITY
SUPPORT

United in our commitment to care

SPRING 2025

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Arnprior-Braeside-McNab Seniors At Home Program Inc.

Hello Spring

As the unpredictable winter weather diminishes and the days become warmer, we have been hard at work planning fresh and engaging social events designed to encourage our seniors to get out, connect and stay active! This year is extra special as we proudly celebrate 45 years of service to our community – a milestone made possible thanks to our clients, donors and volunteers support and involvement. Like always, we're just a phone call away should you have questions about our programs and services available to you or maybe someone you care about. Reach out anytime at 613-623-7981 – we'd love to hear from you!

Music Trivia by CIBC Arnprior

Thanks to the team at CIBC Arnprior, this year's Movie & Music Trivia was nothing short of EPIC! Shannon Dupuis and the incredible team at CIBC orchestrated an unforgettable event in support of local seniors and individuals with disabilities. Plus, it was also a win-win for the Arnprior Food bank as we collected quite the haul!

Special thanks to our Master Host Aerik Watson and his partner EC for keeping the energy high all night long! Also, big congratulations to the #1 team - The Tragically Hip Replacements!

Images from top to bottom from left to right:

Top left - Happy Trivia team

Top right – (right to left): Event organizers, Shannon Dupuis of the CIBC, Aerik Watson – Trivia Host, EC – Trivia Assistant

Bottom left - The Winning Team "The Tragically Hip Replacements"

Bottom right – (left to right): Cheque presentation with CIBC Lacey Remus, Shannon Dupuis of CIBC, Dennis Harrington of SAH and Rhonda Sawyer



Income Tax Clinic Update

As the season winds down, we're thrilled to share that as of April 23rd, we proudly served over 380 clients, marking yet another outstanding year. We wish to thank all 14 volunteers whose dedication to our community made this possible. Their time, effort and commitment helped deliver an essential service to our community once again.

Image (left to right) – Volunteers, Terri-Lynn Veale, Carolyn Marlin and Marie-Josée Ton



Heartfelt Thanks to Reverend Paul & St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Parishioners!

We want to give a huge shout-out to Reverend Paul of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and his generous parishioners for their incredible donation to support our Valentine Angel Tree! Their kindness and community spirit make a real difference, and we're so grateful for their support.

As we celebrate our 45th Anniversary, we extend our deepest thanks to all our incredible volunteers. Their unwavering dedication and compassion have made a profound difference in the lives of our most vulnerable community members. We are truly grateful for their continued support and generosity—they are the heart of our mission!

Thank You

UPCOMING EVENTS!



Arnprior Cruise Nights
May 19th - Sept. 1st
At the Antrim Truck Stop - 4-8pm



**EVERY 1ST
WED OF THE
MONTH**



LUNCH BUNCH

Enjoy live Music & Lunch for \$12.00 at the Arnprior Legion (Pre-order Friday before event)

MAY

21



DINERS' CLUB

Enjoy an all inclusive dinner with live entertainment at PJ's for only \$28.00. (Must be pre-ordered by May 16th)

**JUNE
14**



VALLEY CRUISERS FATHER'S DAY CAR SHOW & BBQ

Hosted by Valley Cruisers! Bring dad to check out the wide range of vintage and cool cars, entertainment the best BBQ deals around! (Rain date - June 15)

**JULY
17**



SENIORS BBQ IN THE PARK

Enjoy a great BBQ in the park with music, games and plenty of fun! (Rain date - July 24th)

**AUG
17**



THE MEMORIAL BUTTERFLY RELEASE

A unique and beautiful way to pay tribute to a loved one. Call to pre-purchase your butterfly by August today!

**SEP
27**



SHRED DAY

Protect your identity and watch your confidential papers be destroyed before your eyes!

**NOV
1**



SENIORS AT HOME - 45TH ANNIVERSARY - A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Join us in celebrating our 45th Anniversary!

**DEC
6**



CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR AT THE NICK SMITH CENTRE

Discover unique crafts and gifts made by local artisans at Arnprior's favorite Craft Fair!

More Events to Come!

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram or visit www.cssagency.ca to stay updated!

NEW ARRIVAL T-SHIRT

Check Out Our Latest Design!!

✓ Many sizes available

**ONLY
\$23.00**

Tax Included



To order, call Suzanne 613-623-7981 ext. 104 or stop into 106 McGonigal St., Unit A1, Arnprior



HOME & COMMUNITY
SUPPORT
United in our commitment to care
Arnprior-Braeside-McNab
Seniors At Home Program Inc.



DINERS' CLUB

Wednesday, May 21st, 2025

5:00pm to 7:00pm

PJ'S RESTAURANT

Choice of Roast Turkey or Fish and Chips
(Includes soup, dessert and tea or coffee)

Tickets: \$28.00 (need to be purchased by noon on Friday May 16th)

ENTERTAINMENT by

Spencer Scharf

All Seniors 55 & Over, Disabled and Individuals with Special Needs are welcome

For further information please call 613-623-7981 www.cssagency.ca

Proudly Sponsored by:

Arnprior-Braeside-McNab Seniors At Home Program Inc.

All Newcomers Welcome



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COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Seniors Active Living Centre programs offer:

- Social, cultural, learning and recreational programs for 55+ adults that promote health, well-being and social connections.
- SALC Memberships has its Privileges, SALC has partnered with some local business(The Mighty Fine Bakehouse and Cafe/ receive 0.70\$ on any gourmet coffee, White Pine Bookstore/ receive 20%) OFF Books and Children's wear, Cold Bear Brewing Co. / Receive 5% OFF in-house purchases...
- SALC offers Fitness/ wellness classes(Functional Fitness, Chair yoga, Mat yoga, Yogalates, Balance & Strength and Pilates
- Membership events (Carpet Bowling, Open Gym, Swims at Nick Smith Centre, Line-Dancing, Cards, Ukulele Club and LIVE Music)
- Workshops that include Sound Bath Session with Diana from Mystical Elements, Crafts and 1:1 Tech classes

Contact Information:

77B Madawaska St Side Door Monday to Friday, 9am - 3pm
 salc@arnpriorhealth.ca (613)296-1906



The Men's Shed

Arnprior/McNab/Braeside

The Men's Shed is dedicated to creating a space where members can form meaningful relationships, combat loneliness, and uplift one another. Committed to maintaining a high standard of safety and equality. The Men's Shed fosters an environment where every member is treated with respect and dignity. Join us in enhancing life skills, craftsmanship and embracing the camaraderie that defines The Men's Shed experience .

CONTACT INFORMATION

Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9am-1pm
 Location: 832 River Road, Braeside
 Email: mensshedAMB@gmail.com



128 Mary St
 Arnprior, ON K7S 1E6

(613) 623 4200
info@neighbourlinkfountain.com

Activities

- Socialize, get involved, meet new friends and gain a new skill

Resource Office

- Where trained client advocates match needs with resources in our community and beyond

Thrift Boutique

- Where generous donations meet practical needs

The Café

- A place to gather for coffee, snack or a hot lunch (Mon. Tue. & Thur.)

Client confidentiality will be assured for all of our clients

Older Adult Protection Services



Goals of Care

Our focus is on developing a plan of care that reduces risk and eliminates abuse, which includes:

- Offering health care, legal, financial and support options;
- Ensuring safety and protection;
- Encouraging self-determination;
- Restoring dignity and self-esteem; and
- Ensuring access to support services.

REFERRALS

Non-Urgent
 Monday to Friday
 613-432-4851 ext. 818

Urgent
 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
 1-800-363-7222
 Ask to speak with the on-call nurse



Providing care and support to seniors experiencing abuse, seniors at risk of harm and their caregivers in Renfrew County.

Call toll-free
 1-800-363-7222

Something to
 Smile About!



The inventor of the Hokey Pokey died recently. Everything was fine until they tried placing the body in the casket. It all started when they put his left foot in.

Arnprior-Braeside-McNab Seniors At Home Program Inc.

Follow Us



www.cssagency.ca

613-623-7981

A Day in the Life of a Local Senior

Meet Roger: Arnprior's Everyday Hero with a Heart of Gold

Since making Arnprior his home in 2015, Roger Brisson has become a familiar face in our community. With his trademark friendly smile and an endless stream of jokes—ranging from cleverly witty to hilariously silly—he has a special way of lifting spirits wherever he goes. But Roger is more than just a jokester; he's a man whose kindness and generosity truly shine.

Roger's journey hasn't always been easy. He left home at just 12 years old, working hard for only 25 cents an hour. Despite the challenges, he built a life filled with adventure and community spirit. In his younger days, Roger enjoyed hunting and bowling—though he now jokes that he gave those up after spending "too much time on the ground!"

For 33 years, Roger proudly served as part of the City of Ottawa's "underground elite," working tirelessly to keep the city's sewer systems in top condition. Never one to shy away from hard work, 37 years later, he remains an energetic and dedicated member of the community. Whether offering rides to neighbors, lending a helping hand, or picking up litter—including the occasional mouse or muskrat—Roger leads by example. One grateful resident even handed him a \$10 bill as a thank-you for helping keep the streets clean.

Beyond his community service, he demonstrates kindness to many volunteers who are frequently treated to complimentary lunches and much needed social outings. He jokingly said that he's made many offers to do dishes but had no takers. Roger is more than just a jokester—he's a community treasure, making Arnprior a better place every day.

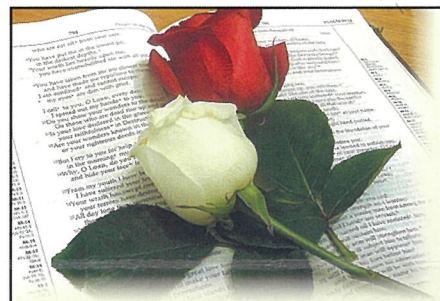


A Stitch of Kindness Just in Time for Easter!

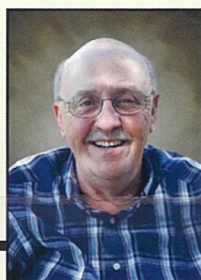
A huge **THANK YOU** to the Arnprior District Quilters Guild for their generous donation of beautifully handmade placemats for our Hot Meals on Wheels clients!



Image (left to right): Joyce Murray of the Arnprior Quilters Guild and Nancy Peck, Program Coordinator at Seniors At Home



We at Seniors At Home gratefully thank those who have donated in memory of their loved ones.



STEPHEN "STEVE"
HARWOOD
1948-2025



THERESA
CHARBONNEAU
1936-2025



KAREN ANNE
TOWNLEY
1950-2025



BOB LOCKHART
1954-2025

Leave a Lasting Legacy

More Information Suzanne Giroux
Development Coordinator

613.623.7981 suzannegiroux@cssagency.ca

How will you be REMEMBERED?

**FUNDRAISING
EVENT**

If you or your business are interested in hosting a fundraiser in support of Seniors At Home, we'd love to hear from you!
Please contact Suzanne at 613-623-7981 ext. 104.

613-623-7981

www.cssagency.ca

106 McGonigal St. W., Arnprior

OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, May 19, 2025, Victoria Day
Tuesday, July 1, 2025, Canada Day

Certificate of APPRECIATION

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

Town of Arnprior

In recognition of your generous support and valuable participation in the Doctors Dining Duel.

Your contribution has made a meaningful impact on our event and the community we serve.

Thank you for being an essential part of our success.

April 24th, 2025

Date



Mark Nibourg

Chair of PRC

